

**Mad River Valley Planning
District Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes**
February 15, 2018, 7:00 P.M.
General Wait House, 4061 Main
St, Waitsfield, VT

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectboard; Don Simonini, Planning Commission
Waitsfield: Kari Dolan, Selectboard
Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectboard; Jim Sanford, Planning Commission
Sugarbush: Margo Wade
MRV Chamber of Commerce: Peter MacLaren
CVRPC: Eric Vorwald
MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz

The meeting opened at 7:06 pm. Bob Ackland, Chair, brought the meeting to order.

- I. Adjustments to the Agenda**
 - a. Switch order of Old Agenda and New Agenda items
- II. Public Comment**
 - a. No public in attendance. No comments were made.
- III. Accept Minutes of 1/25/18 Steering Committee Meeting**
 - a. Jared moved to accept the minutes, and Peter seconded the motion.
- IV. Staff Report**
 - a. **Transportation**
 - i. **UVM Student Internship:** A group of students chose the project that Sugarbush, GMT, and MRVPD pitched to gather data to better understand from our visitors, residents and employees what the barriers are to riding the bus and how to improve service from their perspective. Project taking place Feb-April 2018.
 - ii. **MRV TAC:** February mtg cancelled due to illness. Next mtg scheduled for 3/14.
 - iii. **Waitsfield West Sidewalk Project:** MRVPD is beginning work with Town Administrator – focusing on temporary construction easements in order to move forward with final design.
 - b. **Housing**
 - i. Joshua has been in discussion about potential housing projects with Martin Hahn of the VT Housing & Conservation Board.
 - ii. Tenants4Turns discussed at the National Ski Area Winter Eastern Region Trade Show last week.
 - c. **Recreation**
 - i. **MRV Trails Collaborative:** The fourth Trails Collaborative working group meeting will be held on 2/21 from 4:30-6:00pm at the General Wait House. (not 2/26)
 - ii. Funding for trailhead kiosk & mapping project included in upcoming budgets of all three MRV town selectboards.
 - iii. **MRV Backcountry Group:** Kristine has been participating in these discussions, which are focused on providing feedback and advocacy for backcountry skiing opportunities. The group is currently discussing options for official organization.
 - iv. **Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account:** US Dept of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis has developed its first statistics measuring the size and growth of

the outdoor recreation economy. Initial draft for a national standard for evaluating the value of the outdoor recreational economy released on 2/14.

d. **Mapping**

- i. **Waitsfield Wastewater:** Kristine and Iliyan Deskov are now working on a GIS analysis to evaluate the suitability of available land for additional decentralized wastewater infrastructure in both Irasville and Waitsfield Village.
- ii. **Waitsfield Parcel Data:** The Town of Waitsfield has received a Letter of Acceptance for their parcel data that was recently completed through the Statewide Parcel Mapping program.
- iii. **Fayston Online Mapping:** Fayston will soon release their online GIS system and parcel mapping to the public.

e. **Historic Preservation**

- i. Staff's been assisting the Joslin Memorial Library Capital Campaign on the environmental review portion of their Accessibility Modification Grant application through the Community Development Block Grant program. Notice on their grant request is expected in early March.

f. **Municipal**

- i. **Waitsfield Town Plan:** On 12/28/17 the Waitsfield Selectboard voted to adopt the updated Town Plan for 2017-2025. Regionally approved on Tuesday night.
- ii. **Fayston LUR:** Joshua provided a review of the latest draft and met with PC Chair Polly McMurtry to go over them on 1/30. The Valley Reporter called and requested MRVPD's comments on the Land Use regulations on 2/7. A public hearing on the regulations will be held on 2/18. The SB has received good feedback from the community. Interest in keeping the hearing open.

V. **Old Business** – Interest in updating the MRVPD website. Previously explored the option that Waitsfield has gone through, and received a proposal from that vendor. Other options include doing it ourselves.

VI. **New Business**

- a. **Tri Selectboard retreat:** The idea of a three town selectboard retreat was brought up during the CVP. Bob has discussed such an option with Peter Forbes. Would be at no cost – will sit down an interview each member of the three selectboards, then host a one day retreat focused on how they can work best together on cross-valley items. Each SC SB rep will discuss with their respective selectboards soon after Town Meeting
- b. **Broad funding discussion- how to put investment into community:**
 - i. Eric V. shared the *MRVPD Strategic Planning Overview Draft v.4*, which summarizes recent MRVPD work and explores the importance of an identified dedicated funding source and master plan in order to implement identified key objectives.
 - ii. Peter M. shared thoughts on how to develop such a dedicated funding source. Peter M. got involved in this discussion 3 years ago – which lead to the community engagement and consensus via the Vision & Vitality Series. A lot of work has been done to analyze the data and understand community needs. Going forward the community needs to trust any structure that makes this work a reality, and full support of the process needed from MRVPD, the MRV Chamber, and Sugarbush. The work includes the need to articulate how community investments benefit the whole, as well as the intention to develop local funding of projects in the face of a reduction from the feds and state.
 - iii. Proposal: create a group of MRVPD and Chamber reps to develop a proposal – a sketch of what such a structure could look like. All SC voting reps provided support

for the proposal. Peter, Don & Jared will discuss a pathway forward and report back at the March SC mtg .

VII. Next Meeting – March 15, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joshua Schwartz