

**Mad River Valley Planning District
Steering Committee
October 16, 2014**

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectman;
Waitsfield: Steve Shea, Planning Commissioner
Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectman; Jim Sanford, Planning Commissioner
CVRPC: Laurie Emery
Sugarbush: Margo Wade
Chamber of Commerce: Peter Hans
MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz; Dara Torre
Mad River Glen: Jamie Wimble
Others: John Hoogenboom, Moretown

The minutes of the September 18, 2014 Steering Committee were accepted as amended to reflect that J. Sanford was in attendance.

Director's Report: J. Schwartz updated members on the diverse activities in which the Planning District is involved, including: receiving the final reports (Waitsfield and Warren) of the VT Downtown Assistance Team (VDAT) which are available on the MRVPD website, preparing applications for Community Development funds for final design for Warren's streetscape and Waitsfield's pocket park to implement the recommendations of the VDAT reports; the watershed-wide public meeting is being scheduled for spring rather than November, J. Schwartz has been invited to speak at two conferences (National Assn of Development Organizations, and the 14th annual New Partners for Smart Growth) for which the cost is fully funded by the sponsoring organizations, reviewing the Fayston Town Plan, submitting an application with W. Flender to the Strong Communities, Better Connections Program to fund a Mad River Valley active-transportation plan, meeting with the MRV Transportation Advisory Committee to discuss the 2014/15 Madbus schedule, scheduling the tri-town select board meeting for November where presentations for funding requests will be made by MRVPD, the Mad River Resource Management Alliance, and the MRV Recreation District.

It was discussed that more outreach needs to be done to get better support and participation by the community for the Madbus. Feedback from the riders is needed as is more participation by Valley businesses. The goal is for the Madbus to become year round with increased ridership.

There is discussion happening by the tenants of the General Wait House on building maintenance and developing a plan for same.

MRVPD and MRCC Collaboration: Staffing is being reviewed to see if there is a need for any combined work. Joint economic development activities are also being discussed and a timeline has been developed with the intent of doing education about the different segments of the Valley's economy and how they fit together. Plans are being developed for a June 2015 economic summit where the public will be asked to provide feedback. There is also a group that is exploring a local options/quality of life tax which is one of the economic summit suggestions to explore. J. Cadwell and B. Ackland have been participating informally representing the Planning District, but it would be better if they were officially appointed by the Steering Committee. There are five additional members to the group. It's thought that this is one way to move the economic summit recommendations forward and also collaborate with the Chamber. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to appoint B. Ackland and J. Cadwell to the economic development collaboration group as representatives of the MRVPD.

FY 2016 MRVPD Work Plan and Budget: Members reviewed the proposed work plan for FY 16 (March 2015 to February 2016) and J. Schwartz provided details on the elements of the work plan, which include: economic development, recreation, flood resiliency, municipal support, transportation, data report and analysis, Rural Resource Commission, MOU with Sugarbush, affordable housing, and climate change. J. Schwartz will provide estimated hours for each task and the draft plan will be presented at the tri-town select board meeting.

Members reviewed the proposed FY 2016 budget noting that the projected carryover from FY 2015 is \$3,659 which was the unexpected carryover from FY 2014 that was not included in the FY 2015 budget. The projected fund balance/carryover for FY 2016 is \$2,826 with dues remaining the same as this year's. This includes an increase in the rent for the office space at the General Wait House. However, this proposal does not include an increase in salary for the Executive Director. After further discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved to increase the dues by 2% and the Executive Director's salary by 3% for FY 2016. As revised, the projected fund balance would be \$3200.

Sugarbush Update: M. Wade reported that Hardy Merrill will be moving and leaving Sugarbush, but he wanted to extend his thanks to the Planning District for its support of the Resort.

There will be a forthcoming Act 250 application for Lincoln Peak.

Next Meeting: It was agreed that a meeting in November was not necessary and that the next meeting would be Thursday, December 11 (the second Thursday) at the Waitsfield Town Office if the space is available. The conference room in the General Wait House has a standing meeting reservation for the evening of the second Thursday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Emery