

**Mad River Valley Planning District**  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
**January 25, 2018, 7:00 P.M.**  
**Waitsfield Town Office**

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectboard

Waitsfield: Kari Dolan, Selectboard

Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectboard; Jim Sanford, Planning Commission

Sugarbush: Margo Wade

MRV Chamber of Commerce: Peter MacLaren

CVRPC: Eric Vorwald

Guests: Bob Cook, Janet Kunudsen?

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm. Bob Ackland, Chair, brought the meeting to order.

**I. Adjustments to the Agenda**

1. Jared added a quick discussion of the proposed change to Fayston's Land Use Regulations

**II. Public Comment**

1. No public comment

**III. Accept Minutes of 10/19/17 Steering Committee Meeting**

1. Peter moved to accept the minutes, Jared seconded the motion with a few edits including the correct spelling of Kari's last name and replacing "Vermont Chamber" with "VLCT" under the housing section of the Staff Report.

**IV. Staff Report**

**1. Transportation**

- a. GMT seasonal bus service is now running daily until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Kristine urged the group to ride the bus and tell their friends as well.
- b. Someone asked if MRVDP had any ridership numbers from GMT at this point in the service season. Kristine explained that GMT is not attending TAC meetings regularly anymore, so they did not receive a ridership update at their last meeting. MRVDP will follow up.

**2. Housing**

- a. Tenants for Turns
  - i. 15 landlords have received incentives and 20 employees placed in housing through the program. Sugarbush hasn't had any negative feedback from tenants or landlords about the program.

**3. Recreation**

- a. Kristine provided an updated on the Trailhead Kiosk and Mapping project; most importantly was that the Town of Waitsfield had voted to approve the

funding for their portion of the project utilizing existing Conservation Commission funds.

- b. Bob asked if there is a solid inventory of where the kiosks are needed. Kristine said yes, MRVPD has been working closely with stakeholders on the inventory to ensure there is no double counting of locations. Kristine also mentioned the challenge that permitting is going to pose to the project, potentially in Warren and Waitsfield. Trailhead signs are exempt from zoning regulations in Fayston.
- c. The 2018 National Outdoor Recreation Conference will be held in Burlington on 4/23-4/26. Bob said that this is an important conference given the current focus of the MRVPD on recreation. He thinks someone should go either from the staff or Steering Committee, but it is a relatively pricy event because it's several days long.

## **V. New Business**

1. 2017 MRV Housing Study- Next Steps
  - a. Kristine presented an overview of the data, findings, and opportunities identified in the 2016 MRV Housing Study.
  - b. Following the presentation there was a discussion amongst the group about how the MRVPD and the towns should approach implementation going forward. Peter said he thinks it's a good idea to check some of the "quick wins" off the list to show success, but if we do not go for some of the "major projects," we won't make a real dent in the problem.
  - c. The remainder of the discussion focused on parcels for housing development. Kari said she thought there was some potential in the Waitsfield Sand Pit and others talked about the Munn Field. There was a subsequent discussion of the location of affordable housing outside of the village centers. Kristine explained that the availability and cost of land is a big barrier to the creation of affordable housing, so sometimes beggars can't be choosers. The group discussed the Flemer Barns as a great location and project that would preserve a historic asset as well. Kristine reminded the group that it is currently privately owned.

## **VI. New Business**

2. Fayston Land Use Regulations
  - a. Jared explained that he has asked MRVPD and CVRPC to do a thorough review of the proposed changes to the regulations. He explained that the dynamic in the town is a DRB that is not in sync with the Planning Commission. He said he thinks they are getting back on track with this regulation revision. He said an objective review by Joshua and Eric is important to the process. He said they do not intend to adopt the regulations at the 2/18 public meeting, but he would like MRVPD and CVRPC review sooner rather than later to include as part of the public comment.
3. Waitsfield West Sidewalk Phase II & MRVPD's Role
  - a. Bob explained that MRVPD staff met with the Waitsfield Town Administrator to discuss options for project management. Staff drafted a letter that proposed Kristine to be the Local Project Manager for the project going forward.
  - b. Kari said she appreciates the opportunity for the MRVPD be the project manager.

- c. Peter asked if MRVPD takes this on, and would staff have to reprioritize? Kristine said much of the public outreach for the project is done, and once the easements are obtained, the project will move to final design, which will require some back and fourth with the engineers. She explained that the most time consuming piece will likely be putting the project out to bid, but that is not anticipated until fall 2018.
- d. Jared moved to accept intention of the letter, Peter seconded, and all voted in favor.

**VII. Next meeting –February 15, 2018**

Peter moved to adjourn, Jared seconded. Meeting closed at 9:23pm.