

**Mad River Valley Planning District**  
**Steering Committee**  
December 11, 2014  
Meeting Minutes

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectman; Carol Chamberlin, Planning Commissioner

Waitsfield: Chris Pierson, Selectman; Steve Shea, Planning Commissioner

Warren: Bob Ackland, Selectman; Jim Sanford, Planning Commissioner

Sugarbush: Win Smith, Margo Wade, Jim Westhelle

Chamber of Commerce: Peter Hans

MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz; Dara Torre

Others: Mac Rood, Mad River Path Association (MRPA); Laura Brines, MRPA

The minutes of the October 16, 2014 Steering Committee were accepted.

**Sugarbush Update:** Win reviewed the timeline of residential and base area development at Lincoln Peak, and clarified the role of EB-5 funding and repayment. He stated that a total of \$40 million in EB-5 funds are being repaid via profits from residential sales of Rice Brook (one 2-bedroom unit remains unsold) and the planned Gadd Brook Residences, Phase IIB of the Lincoln Peak redevelopment Phase II master plan.

Margo shared slides and a preliminary phasing summary for the Gadd Brook project, for which permitting will be initiated in January. Sales will follow over the winter, with construction in April or May dependent upon 50% of units sold. The same design team (The Design Group, architects Jim Edgcomb and Jeff Schoelkopf) was used, as well as Grenier Engineering (civil engineer), SE Group (landscape architect), and VHB (environmental). Margo will provide a copy of the Act 250 permit application to Joshua, who will review according to the MOU, Article #9. Since the MRVPD has previously conducted a review of the Phase II master plan and there is little expected deviation, the Steering Committee agreed to vote on approving the Phase IIB project at its January meeting. MRVPD will need to provide a letter of support by February.

**Director's Report:** Joshua reviewed MRVPD activities since October's meeting. He and Dara submitted a CDBG-DRII application for Main Street Improvements in Warren Village as developed through the VDAT process and building upon previous studies and recommendations. Jim inquired about how the public hearing was advertised, and expressed his concern that Warren Village residents and business owners be well-informed about the project. Joshua clarified that final design will include more public input opportunities, as well as an upcoming comment period when a third ad runs in the Valley Reporter. The Warren application is currently under review, and has required further work on the part of MRVPD staff and VDAT consultants, who are available to assist through the end of the year. An application for the Waitsfield Pocket Park, also identified during the VDAT process, is currently being written. Joshua described a recent flood resilience workshop he attended in November. He was happy to report that the MRVPD's Active Transportation grant proposal was awarded funding (\$75K) by VTrans,

and should begin in the spring. The local match was made possible through the contributions of Fayston, Waitsfield, Warren, Moretown, the MRV Rotary, and the MRV Chamber of Commerce.

**Tri-Town Meeting Wrap-Up:** Bob commented on the quality of the topics and discussion achieved at last month's meeting, as well as a suggestion he received to hold such forums more often. Jared agreed, suggesting the MRVPD host 2 to 3 forums per year on select topics of interest. SC members agreed to check with their fellow Selectboard members about possible topics, such as road maintenance, fire protection, and education. Designation of a date and agenda for the next forum will be discussed at the January SC meeting.

**Recreation District:** Jeff Whitingham was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a conflict. Bob reviewed some historical research he completed on the origin of the Recreation District and its mission. The Recreation District was conceptualized in a 1991 MRVPD study of recreation, and created in 1993 to expand recreational opportunities through planning, programming, and land acquisition, and was granted maintenance authority and the ability to assess member municipalities as required to carry out its mission. The board is made up of 2 appointments from each member town's Selectboard as well as 3 at-large members from the community, appointed by the Selectboard appointees. The group discussed the opportunity presented by the recent Active Transportation plan funding, which even with its trail focus will nonetheless deliver a comprehensive inventory of organizational capacity, opportunities, and potential funding mechanisms to strengthen recreation in the MRV. Joshua will discuss with Jeff the possibility of having some MRVPD SC members and staff meet with the full Recreation District board in January to explore complementary strategies.

**MRVPD Grant Assistance:** Joshua commented on the success of the MRVPD in obtaining over 2.2 million in grant funds over the last six years, and its ongoing role as a clearinghouse for info on grant opportunities. He plans to expand dissemination of upcoming opportunities via a periodic MRVPD newsletter. Although MRVPD regularly provides consultation services and letters of support for member towns and local organizations, he and Dara have been devoting an increasing amount of workload to grant-writing. There is a need for assistance with fire protection vehicle grants in multiple MRV towns. To prioritize requests for grant assistance, members agreed to the following priority order based on the nature of the proposal: Regional, Municipal, Other. The team also discussed the benefit of expanded staff capacity to meet growing needs.

**Next Meeting:** January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (third Thursday) at 7PM in the General Wait House conference room.