

**Mad River Valley Planning District  
Steering Committee  
May 21, 2009**

Present were:

Fayston: Jared Cadwell, Selectman;

Waitsfield: Steve Shea, Planning Commissioner

Warren: Burt Bauchner, Seletman; Jim Sanborn, Planning Commissioner

MRV Chamber of Commerce:

Sugarbush: Jason Lisai

CVRPC: Laurie Emery, Steve Gladczuk

MRVPD: Joshua Schwartz

Others: Don Wexler, Moretown, Mad River Byway

Director's Report: Zoning Administrators met again and discussed the development of a new database which would be similar in each of the Towns for permitting data. Municipal Education Grants: The Planning District was awarded a grant to cover workshops in each of the 3 towns. These are training sessions geared to planning commissioners, DRB members and select board members. The topics include storm water and permitting, land use procedures, and the DRB review process. Mad River Path: Members of the Path board will meet with the Steering Committee in June to discuss the Path Assn's strategies and goals. The transportation enhancement grant for the Whiteside property was fully funded. Warren Village Designation: This designation will provide the Village with tax incentives, and allows the Town to move forward on the neighborhood program, as well as developing a TIF district.

Steering Committee Minutes: With a quorum in attendance, the minutes of the March 19, 2009 Steering Committee meeting were accepted as written. For the April 16, 2009 meeting, there was no quorum and therefore no minutes to be accepted, although there are notes from the meeting.

Mad River Byway: The Byway received a grant for signage and 2 kiosks. The grant requires that the signs and kiosks have an entity (or entities) responsible for upkeep and maintenance. The Town in which the signs and/or kiosk are located needs to sign an agreement regarding maintenance. The signs, etc cannot be put p until all of the agreements are signed. The Byway Committee is also working on traffic calming ideas such as bumper stickers that say something like "Ride rather than drive and enjoy the Byway."

Waitsfield Municipal Water System Project: The District Environmental Commission (Act 250) held its pre-hearing conference and outlined the steps and procedures and inquired as to who wanted to participate in the process. MRVPD was given party status with the understanding that the Steering Committee had not yet taken a position on the project, but wanted to preserve its ability to do so. The MRVPD Bylaws state specifically that the Planning District can be involved in the permitting process unless asked by a town to not participate.

D. Dion explained the various disputes relative to this project stating that there is a dispute over ownership of the land under the road where the well is located, a dispute over the impact on current wells on Main Street, a dispute over ownership of land where the storage tank is proposed, and concern about taxpayers having to pay the cost of the system if there aren't enough people who hook on. In addition, there are 2 appeals related to the condemnation and source permit proceedings.

The District Environmental Commission has to decide whether to stays its proceedings until the court cases are finalized or to move forward regardless. The Planning District has been involved in the project by assisting in getting grants and serving as a resource for the towns. The Planning District needs to decide its position. The Waitsfield Planning Commission is whole-heartedly behind a municipal water system and wastewater system. They would like to see the water system happen and are leaving the disputes up to others to solve. It was

suggested that the Planning District could state their general support of municipal water and wastewater systems for growth areas, particularly since Irasville is identified by each town as the commercial center of the Valley. It was noted that the Planning District has made that statement through the Op/Ed piece in the newspaper that the Executive Director was directed to write supporting the need for municipal water and wastewater systems in areas designated for growth. It was suggested that following the Town's Planning Commission lead is a first, good step and ties in with the development patterns, land use, water quality, and public health and safety objectives of the Valley. The project fits in with all 3 Towns' municipal plans' identification of Irasville as the commercial center. Land use patterns will be dictated by having a municipal water system.

The public's need for good quality potable water is the overall concern for the Planning District and fits with the objective of providing municipal infrastructure to accommodate growth and development where it's been designated to happen.

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to write a letter in favor of the development of the municipal water system in Waitsfield because of the positive land use, public health, and water quality impacts, and because it's in conformance with the planning goals of the 3 Towns.

Data Project: The Center for Rural Studies (CRS) has been working on the review of the data and how to structure a report. They are suggesting that the data be done in terms of broad topics rather than just following the MOU list; use environmental, economic, etc as topics and organize the relevant data under the topic. In addition, there are other pieces of data developed by other organizations, such as the Friends of the Mad River, which would be useful to include. Sugarbush also has bio-monitoring data that gives additional information on the health of the streams.

Sugarbush stated that it is reviewing the MOU and will deliver a "red marked" copy of changes they would like considered once the data has been analyzed to see what is the most appropriate data, etc, to be collected. The MOU changes will probably be provided for the October Steering Committee meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, and will include a discussion with the Path Association about goals and strategies, the Watershed Conservation representatives about their work, and further discussion of the data project and Sugarbush's data.

It was agreed that the Steering Committee will also meet July 16, but will not meet in August.

Sugarbush Projects: There will be a tree skiing application for the MRVPD Executive Director to review, had a great meeting with the Town of Warren reps regarding the Inferno Road path, are working on several small projects on Forest Service land, and are waiting for the Act 250 permit on phase 1B in hopes of starting construction in April 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Emery