

Middletown Springs Planning Commission  
Approved minutes  
May 5, 2014

Members Present: John Arsenault, Tom Hurcomb and Maureen McCormack. Guest: Kathy Letendre

Call to Order: 7:05 PM

Agenda Approval

- 1) Approval of March 31, 2014 minutes: John moved and Tom gave a second to approve as corrected. The motion passed.
- 2) June 1st Creative Community Meeting: Kathy Letendre who had agreed to facilitate our creative community meeting was in attendance. The planning members reviewed for her the reasons for holding the meeting. Many towns in Vermont have seen local residents create an organization to support local entrepreneurs, be they farmers, artists or artisans to grow their economic base. The concept comes out of the Vermont Creative Community focus that evolved under the guidance of the VT Council for Rural Development. It is the wish of the Planning Commission to obtain input on adopting this idea from those invited to attend this first meeting. Many at home businesses are found in our town. Further, as the PC would like to comply with the wishes of the residents expressed in our last town report. That report showed that residence wished to have more town services while also retaining our rural character. The Planning Commission cannot form an organization, however, it can support an organization for this purpose, and be a resource to secure guidance and some funding.

Kathy spoke to how she saw the two hours of the June meeting being structured. She felt that in 2 hours it should be possible to get the group to begin to **envision** what this organization could look like, i.e. to get the ideas flowing and begin to “paint” a picture of what it might look like. At another meeting of the group the details could be worked out. An agenda for the two hours was planned.

Tom said he would research what other towns have been doing to further their economic base along the ideas of the creative community. Tom, also, presented a brochure made by the historical society in the 1970’s. It showed that interest existed at that time to put out some publicity on the businesses in the town. While we are looking for placed-based businesses to participate we know that towns with a solid economic base that retain their rural character also generates non-placed base or generic businesses and all further the town’s economic base.

It was agreed to mail out the invitations this week and ask for a RSVP by May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Planning members agree to set up the dining room at 1:30 on June 1st and beverages and food tasks were assigned.

- 3) Correspondence: Received from: a) the VT Department of Environmental Conservation, Drinking Water and Ground Water Protection Division a notification of an application for a relocation of a well and septic on Mountain Road. No action by us is required; b) from Staying Connected, a packet of tools and strategies to help Planning Commissions to

avoid forest fragmentation and to further linkages with other towns when completing their town plan.

- 4) Old Business:
  - a. Village Center Designation: John presented a cover letter he will be mailing to the Vermont Downtown Program, Division for Community Planning and Revitalization, Department of Housing and Community Development regarding our application for a Village Center designation notifying them of our electronic application. John will mail this out once he receives confirmation on our planning process from the RRPC.
  - b. Economic Development: No report.
  - c. Future Meeting Dates and Times: It was agreed to move the meeting time from the first Monday at 7 PM to the same day but with a meeting time at 3PM. John will post three warrant notices on this change.
- 5) Building Committee Report: Not having a quorum the Building Committee has not met this past month. Having a large member committee requires a large quorum to be in attendance.
- 6) RRPC Report: Tom presented a publication on amendments to the RRPC plan distributed for public information. Tom also shared an email invitation to an information meeting at the RRPC rooms on June 4 from 1-2:30 on the topic of Downtown/Village Center Designation
- 7) New Business: None.
- 8) Next Meeting Date: June 2, 2014 at 3:00 PM at the town office.
- 9) Adjourn: 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen McCormack, Secretary