

Approved Minutes
Middletown Springs Planning Commission
October 7, 2013

Members Present: John Arsenault, Tom Hurcomb, and Maureen McCormack

Public Present: Peter Huntoon, Mareva Millac, Nick Seidner, and Dave Munyak.

Call to Order: 7:03 PM

Agenda Approval:

1. Approval of September minutes: Tom moved and John gave a second. Approved as presented
2. Correspondence: None
3. Old Business:
 - a. Village Center Designation: John announced that the updated map is now on our town website and map copies will be available in the town office soon. John explained the meaning of “village center” to those present and added that a village center designation acts to support economic development. He distributed a flyer showing how the designation can aide businesses and historic buildings as well as offering a priority listing for state grants to the town. The Select Board has given preliminary approval of the map when updated. The designation has to be approved every 5 years. John opened the meeting for questions regarding the village center designation.
 - b. Tom reported on the informal meeting held with Kris Hughes from RRPC on how that regional office may help us with any future economic development.
 - c. Economic Development: Tom spoke about having a town vision that could lead to developing a positive identity for the community and how such an image can act as a marketing tool to assist in any state economic development work with us. It was acknowledged by all that the town has many independent artisan, business, and farming entrepreneurs and that these many independents may want to come together to offer insights into how best the town could further an image that would benefit them and the town’s economic base. Dave Munyak talked about his pleasure at settling here and Nick Seidner of the independent spirit prevailing here. Maureen offered that seeing how there is such a wealth of talent and knowledge here the town could become a haven for mentoring. Peter Huntoon said he and his wife, Mareva Millac, had built a series of workshop rooms and both of them love the idea of teaching and mentoring while connecting others to the wonders of rural Vermont. Nick spoke to how a kiosk listing farm and artisan entrepreneurs might further economic development. Maureen spoke of how we offer a quiet community that has appeal to many who wish to avoid crowds and noise. John felt a craft association would be great if the independent town entrepreneurs owned it. Dave thought advertising in journals and magazines that support independent businesses, artisans and farmers would add greatly to the town image and its economic base. Tom asked if anyone was interested in organizing an artisan association. All agreed we should get feedback from others

and that further meetings will be needed. Maureen offered to begin a list of independent entrepreneurs with hopes that additional names would be added, as they became known. Tom spoke on how important it is for the well being of the town that economic development be furthered while keeping our rural uniqueness. It is the economic base that supports our common town expenses of roads, school, and tax base. Also, said Tom, it is having some commerce in the town that helps to keep us a community, not just a bedroom town. Tom pointed out how there is convergence presently of many good town efforts. Maureen will begin a list and then ask others to add to it. Hopefully, other artisans and independent entrepreneurs will join us at a future planning commission meeting. John pointed out that a piece in the up and coming Magnet will invite folks to come and discuss the village center designation with us.

4. Building Committee Report: Tom stated that the newly constituted committee with three additional members met last week for the first time. This brings the building committee to 16 members. Three members had participated in a two-day workshop on organizational decision-making. They informed the other committee members on how the decision-making tools could help the town move forward on our new building. The committee discussed how to involve the public using these strategic tools learned at the organizational workshop attended by Kim Mathewson, Patty Kenyon and Maureen McCormack. Request for bids on removal of the building are waiting further state clarification.
5. RRPC Report: Tom reported on a discussion at RRPC on open meeting laws and violations of them.
6. New Business: We agree to move the December meeting to the 9th.
7. Next Meeting Date: November 4, 2013, 7:00 PM
8. Adjourn: 8:11 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen McCormack, Secretary