

Planning Commission Minutes
January 10, 2022

Present: (Zoom) Don Simonini, Doug Day (Chair), Pete Ludlow, Jennifer Hammond, Rick Swanson, Carol Chamberlin, Hanna Neill (ZA), Amy Tomasso (MRVPD), Matt Lillard (MRG)

The Meeting was called to Order: 5:30pm

The minutes of December 13, 2021 were approved

Liaison Reports:

Don stated that the monthly meeting was coming up in two weeks. The Housing Coalition presented a proposal to the Planning District and it was rejected for a number of reasons. The Housing Coalition has hired an Executive Director. Don has resigned from Housing Board and they have a plan in place to move forward. The critical issue is securing the funding they need. In the next two weeks they will be looking at a work plan for where Josh and Amy will put their time in the coming months.

Presentation by Amy Tomasso as the new Community Planner at MRVPD:

Amy introduced herself as the new Community Planner at MRVPD and let us know what she has been working on since starting in November. She has picked up the 2021 Community Wellbeing Project and presented its background and initial results. The plan is to use this data for future decision making as a real time feedback loop. And it helps to address complex community issues. This information is going into the Community Dashboard which can be viewed online. The initial Wellness Survey is 53 questions and 3 open ended questions. This survey allows the MRVPD to compare our data to Vermont data. They are asking for help to get this survey out to our community and reach a wider range of participants. The intention is to get the out again Spring 2022 and have an annual release date.

Jared let us know that the survey did not include second home owners. And the question shifted to how to reach out to a more diverse group of respondents and that we need ideas and suggestions.

Karen suggested to get more young people involved by providing notices about it in small businesses around the area. Rick suggested we make it as easy as possible to access.

Jen suggested doing the survey in phases, or one year focus on one area rather than having the length of the survey all at once.

Discussion with Matt Lillard of MRG to review the address allowing schools within the Resort District. Hanna to provide some guidance based on her ongoing research of this topic:

Hanna presented her research on how other Ski schools operate around the state and the background on this conversation. The PC felt they didn't need to change the LUR right now. Matt presented that any immediate need is not necessary but that he wanted to explore having a school in the future as a viable option for MRG. He brought up the differences between certified,

recognized, and approved schools. Climate is warming and how the co-op survives may not always be able to rely on winter rec so other options for the future are something to think about. The PC suggested that we explore a different definition other than certified by the state school. And that clarification is needed between certified, recognized and approved. Hanna offered to find this answer.

Carol stressed that this topic will need to be well thought out and researched before adding schools to districts that do not already allow them.

The PC asked if there is any future projects that could help MRG in the future. Matt stated that the Co-op is revising their long term plan. And that right now the only question moving forward is the educational factor.

Continue discussions of Rte 17 overlay and allowed uses. Hanna to present data for current commercial building footprints:

Legal counsel has advised that the DRB does have the authority to approve non-conforming uses after the 12 month inactive period. It cannot be any non-conforming use must be the historic one. The PC found that this information alleviates the need for an over-lay district at this time. In the future the need for this overlay will arise again.

Other Business/Future Topics:

- Need to discuss future Marijuana opt in and potential effects to necessary bylaws. Keep track of what the State is doing with this and how we need to respond.
- Section 3.7 (B) Carol will work on language to review
- Conditional Use/Subdivision application requires for copies and when applications are due for hearings
- Definition of “Fast Food Restaurant” or eliminate completely
- High Elevation Standards
- Clarification on ordinances and how they affect preexisting issues

PC decided to go to two meetings per month in February

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.