

June 2, 2016

PC Members Present: Julie Potter (Vice Chair), Scott Hess, Jack Pauly, Mark Lane, Kim Watson, Norman Hill, Jay Stewart, Ray Stout

Others Present: Kristi Flynn (Recording Clerk), Eric Vorwald, Kim Swasey, Zach Sullivan

Call to order: 7:02pm

Changes to Agenda – None

Public Comment – None

East Montpelier Village Master Plan: Vision for the Village: Discussion with Eric Vorwald, CVRPC Senior Planner

Mr. Vorwald:

- What is the vision for the future?
- Would like to bring 1 or more statements to the public open house on 7/21
- Not meant to be a mission statement, more like an aspirational message
- Looking 5-10 years out, maybe more
- Shorter is better than long and drawn-out; should be easily remembered

Questions/suggestions to help for the vision statement:

- Dudley's had a creemee stand, was a gathering place; need a place for repeat business, create a place for people to gather
- Create a village that's a good place to work and have fun
- Lacks livability, dynamic atmosphere, community
- There is nothing here to draw people
- Embrace what's here, don't become Montpelier
- Not much to service those on the other side of the river
- Words to describe – live, work, learn, connect, meet, play, shop
- Look at areas off Routes 2 and 14 where people can walk and meet
- Slow down traffic, traffic light will be by new bridge
- Lots of cars driving through the village, look at it as an opportunity
- Unsafe for walking in the village, make it safe to walk and bike
- Trails, Park N Ride, best school – don't compete with what's already here, use these as assets
- Don't be afraid to go non-linear
- What's going to make people stop
- We want a destination – shop, eat, recreation
- Create amenities for people who live here
- 80/20 services/manufacturing – how can we sustain the village through work; look at rbTech as an example
- Is the vision for the village to be fully-wired? Explore from a financial perspective
- Concentrate on services, parking
- Slow down, connect and stay awhile
 - Will this convey the right message, businesses might want a faster pace

Next step – Mr. Vorwald will bring these ideas together for the next meeting and bring some suggestions back to the PC. As everyone seems to be on the same page, maybe bring one statement to the public and have them vote on specific words used.

East Montpelier Village Master Plan: Criteria for Establishing Village and Neighborhood Boundaries: Discussion with Eric Vorwald, CVRPC Senior Planner

Some questions/ideas for the PC to consider:

- What does the PC identify as the village area
- How big
- What amenities are included
- Connect upper and lower village – pedestrian bridge
- Dudley's and the Post Office are the center of the village
- Move residences off and businesses on Routes 2 and 14
- Sewer capacity – keep it in mind but if the town wants more, might be an incentive to solve the problem
 - Water moratorium is another issue
- Where do you want growth to happen
 - Avoid the major constraints like the river corridor, wetlands, etc.
- Include Crystal Springs area and decide what else to include – Fire District boundary
- Walking distance from the village – 15 minutes = 1 mile
- Apartments within walking distance of the schools

- Audiences: 1 – people who live here, 2 – attracting people to live/work here, 3 – attract people to stop here
- Three target groups: 0-20 years old, 20-50 years old and 50+ years old
- Where are you comfortable with density near the school
- Look at Quaker Road – lots of open space, close to school, put in sidewalks
 - May be push back as not everyone wants to sell off their property

Recap of discussion:

- Linear corridors
- Potential up Quaker Hill Road
- Areas served by water
- Connect 2 villages – could be 2 different neighborhoods
- Connectivity via walking
- PC agreed on a generous version versus the compact version to begin with

East Montpelier Village Master Plan: Update on 7/21, 2016 Village Planning Open House

The PC has the Fire Station from 5-9pm. The open house will be held from 6-8pm and the PC will have a short meeting from 8-9pm. Refreshments, such as cheese and crackers and cookies, will be served. At the 7/7 meeting, Mr. Vorwald will bring in some versions of the Master Plan for the PC to review prior to the open house. Mr. Vorwald will also bring some examples of densities to see what people are comfortable with. For advertising, there will be a SignPost article and notices on Front Porch Forum.

September 2016 Event

There was some discussion on whether the Rally for the Village would take place on September 10th or 24th. The event will take place from 11am-2pm. Some suggestions for activities: walking tour with Dave Coburn, rbTech willing to host an event, Pastor Herb will conduct tours of the church. Ms. Potter will talk with teachers at EMES regarding some projects by the kids regarding the village.

Update on East Montpelier Old Laperle Farm Property Committee

Mr. Stout reported that the committee had not met since the last PC meeting. The committee hasn't decided whether to invite Amy from Stone Environmental or not.

Update on East Montpelier Capital Improvement Committee

No update.

Update on Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Ms. Potter reported that the CVRPC is updating the 2008 regional plan. The Commission is now working on the Regional Energy Plan as they received some federal grant money. The CVRPC will work on the energy plan then incorporate it into the amended 2008 plan. There will be a vote in September to re-adopt this as the 2016 regional plan.

Review Minutes

May 19, 2016

Motion: I move to approve the minutes as amended. Made: Mr. Hess, second: Mr. Lane

Vote on Motion: Passed 8-0

ZA Report

5 new permits since last meeting

DRB Report

- Stouffer needs a variance to build a dormer and deck on an historical property in the Center
 - Ms. Watson can't attend; e-mail ZA if interested

Other Business

Update on Lazar solar project: Mr. Lazar came to the ZA to express concerns that his application has gone to the bottom of the pile. He still wants the PC to withdraw the motion to intervene. The ZA will update the SB on Monday.

Motion to Adjourn. Made: Mr. Lane, second: Mr. Hill. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kristi Flynn, Recording Clerk