

**Scenery Preservation Council
Public Hearing for Town Addition to the Lake Champlain Byway
Isle LaMotte
March 4, 2009
6:00 P.M.
Isle LaMotte Town Office**

In Attendance: For the SPC – Jill Michaels, Diane Gayer
Also in Attendance, Ruth Wallman, John LaBarge, Betty Lockerby, Debbie Spaulding, Ann McKay, Betty Howland, Diane Chevalier, Ed Juiare, Monte Naas, Annette Naas, Sylvia Jensen, Rusty Spaulding, and others.

The public hearing was called to order by SPC Chair Jill Michaels 6:00 P.M.

Most of those in attendance were not familiar with the byway program and knew little about the resolution to join the Lake Champlain Byway that was passed by the selectboard many months prior to the meeting.

Jill Michaels gave a brief overview of what a byway is, and John LaBarge then explained the Vermont Byway program and talked about the byways that are currently designated and the State's marketing effort for the byways that began last year. He also showed examples of projects that have been funded throughout the state byways with byway grant funds. He also spoke to where the byway funds come from and the 10% match that is required by the town.

Many questions were asked regarding regulations and increased traffic. Several residents expressed concern about the additional bike and car traffic that could be created from the designation. Some of the other questions asked were:

1. Will becoming a byway increase the town taxes in any manner?
2. Is there an organization to join and will there be dues to pay?
3. Will it affect zoning?
4. What does it mean if we adopt the existing Corridor Management Plan?
5. Which roads will be included?
6. Does it create a trash problem?
7. Can we de-designate ourselves in the future if we no longer want to be part of the byway?
8. How will the town benefit from joining the byway?

All questions were discussed and answered. It was clear that many of the residents did not know about the resolution coming into the meeting and wanted time for the town to spread the word and discuss the issue. A town meeting was going to be schedule in the near future to revote the town and school budgets that were defeated on Town Meeting Day and the resolution will be brought up at that time for discussion.

The SPC told the residents they would not make a recommendation to the Transportation Board until they heard from the town legislative body that the town supports the resolution. Jill Michaels adjourned the meeting at 7:06 P.M.