

MINUTES SUBJECT TO CORRECTION BY THE SCENERY PRESERVATION COUNCIL. CHANGES, IF ANY, WILL BE RECORDED IN THE MINUTES OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

**SCENERY PRESERVATION COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
THE KING FARM
3117 ROSE HILL
WOODSTOCK, VERMONT
August 8, 2005**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Michaels, Chairwoman
Tordis Isselhardt Matt Langham
Lew Sorenson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Danielle Fitzko Diane Gayer
Sen. Hull Maynard Sherry Tolle
Rep. Deb Evans Sue Minter

STAFF: Peter Gregory
Tom Kennedy
John LaBarge

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Hyde, VTrans Travel & Tourism
Marianne Riordan, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jill Michaels called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes of June 13, 2005

MOTION by Tordis Isselhardt, SECOND by Lew Sorenson, to approve the 6/13/05 minutes as written. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF FY06 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

Hours expended from October, 2004 through June, 2005 for the various tasks outlined in the work program were reviewed. Staff noted hours for upcoming conferences will be added as well as additional hours for work on the newsletter and website. In Item 2F, “distribute” should be changed to “inform” in regard to funding sources. Tom Kennedy stated a finalized update including direct costs will be provided to the Council in September. There was discussion of adding more hours toward assisting byways groups without strong steering committees to move forward with their project. The Route 9 (Molly Stark) and Lake Champlain byways were mentioned. It was noted there is a parallel byway group working on a byway on the New York side of Lake Champlain and the upcoming quad-centennial celebration. The Council expressed willingness to help unify the Lake Champlain byways effort if the state provides the directive and support to do so. The SPC’s charge is to support byways organizations. The SPC is well connected with the Connecticut River Byway, but work with and support of the other byways organizations in the state is needed.

There was lengthy discussion of byways segments that exist in isolation (i.e. Middlebury, Route 30, small section of Route 7). The Champlain Valley byway should logically follow Route 22A to Fair Haven from Canada. The Council discussed adding a requirement to demonstrate progress and promotion of connectivity to the recertification process. Matt Langham pointed out if the applicant fulfills within a five year period what was stated in the Corridor Management Plan, there are no grounds for decertification.

MOTION by Lew Sorenson, SECOND by Tordis Isselhardt, to approve the SPC Work Program (10/1/05-9/30/06) and budget with the following amendments: 1) show direct costs; 2) add hours for work with emerging byways groups; 3) change wording to “inform of funding sources” in Item 2F. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

3. RECERTIFICATION OF MIDDLEBURY and VERGENNES

There was lengthy discussion of the Middlebury and Vergennes byways being connected to other byways, and potential to tie in effort to connect byways to recertification. A quick review of SPC minutes since January, 2005, revealed the Council has been silent with regard to applicants making progress on expanding/connecting their byways. There was further discussion of the efforts by Middlebury and Vergennes to expand their byways, noting that there is no documented effort by Middlebury to expand their byway while Vergennes is continuing to work hard to create a connected byway, but is limited by its borders. There was mention of Middlebury potentially connecting to Route 30 or Route 125. It was noted Middlebury has a byways grant which could be in jeopardy if recertification is not received. It was suggested one criterion for recertification be the submission of documented evidence of effort to expand/connect a byway. Staff will review Middlebury's Corridor Management Plan for byway expansion plans as well as other documentation and records (Middlebury's Town Plan should have some indication of plans for expansion of the byway). A letter to be sent to Middlebury explaining the SPC's concerns with regard to documented evidence on expansion of byways will be drafted. Lew Sorenson advised the issue of connecting byways should be addressed as a county goal, rather than pinpointing one town. Mr. Sorenson suggested representatives from Middlebury, Vergennes, and the regional planning commission be invited to attend the next SPC meeting to discuss the matter. Bruce Hyde suggested the Council review SPC policy to ensure byways are not isolated within a town, but rather have to be border to border and eventually connected to other byways. John LaBarge will confirm with FHWA to see if the national program requires five year review of the byways designation for state recertification. Five year review for state designation is one of the SPC program requirements.

4. UPDATE ON VTRANS WEBSITE

Matt Langham reported VTrans presently does not have staff or capacity to update the website. Peter Gregory will send SPC changes/updates for the website to John LaBarge.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Molly Stark Trail

Tordis Isselhardt reported the money for the Molly Stark Trail is coming; the kiosks will be built.

Kudos to Bruce Hyde and Staff

Appreciation was extended to Vermont Travel & Tourism for promotion of cultural heritage which has resulted in many visitors to the state.

Designating Route 30 in Bennington County

Tordis Isselhardt reported Jim Sullivan is beginning discussions on scenic byway designation for Route 30 in Bennington County.

6. NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting: October 3, 2005, 10 a.m. to Noon, location to be announced (Middlebury/Vergennes area is a tentative location). October 5, 2005, 10 a.m., is the alternate meeting date if October 3, 2005 does not yield a quorum.

Agenda Items:

- Recertification of Middlebury and Vergennes
- Progress on Expanding Middlebury and Vergennes Byways

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Matt Langham, SECOND by Tordis Isselhardt, to adjourn the meeting. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by M. Riordan, Recording Secretary.

“To Do” List from 8/8/05 SPC meeting:

1. Staff will amend the Work Program and budget to show direct costs, add hours for work with emerging byways groups, change wording to “inform of funding sources” in Item 2F.
2. Staff will review Middlebury’s Corridor Management Plan for byway expansion plans as well as other documentation and records (Middlebury’s Town Plan should have some indication of plans for expansion of the byway).
3. Staff will draft a letter explaining the SPC’s concerns with regard to documented evidence on expansion of byways in Middlebury.
4. Staff will invite representatives from Middlebury, Vergennes, and the regional planning commission to the next SPC meeting to discuss the matter of connecting byways.
5. The Council will review SPC policy to ensure byways are not isolated within a town, but rather have to be border to border and eventually connected to other byways.
6. John LaBarge will confirm with FHWA to see if the national program requires five year review of the byways designation for state recertification. Five year review for state designation is one of the SPC program requirements.
7. Peter Gregory will send SPC changes/updates for the website to John LaBarge.