

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
NATIONAL LIFE BUILDING
THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM #1
MONTPELIER, VERMONT
November 20, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Michaels, Chairwoman
Sen. Hull Maynard Lew Sorenson
Tordis Isselhardt Matt Langham

MEMBERS ABSENT: Diane Gayer
Tordis Isselhardt
Rep. Deb Evans

STAFF: Peter Gregory
Tom Kennedy (absent)
John LaBarge (absent)

OTHERS PRESENT: Marianne Riordan, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jill Michaels called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes of September 25, 2006

MOTION by Lew Sorenson, SECOND by Jill Michaels, to accept the minutes of 9/25/06 as written. VOTING: all ayes, two abstentions (Isselhardt, Hull); motion carried.

**2. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF ROUTE 2 CORRIDOR
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Peter Gregory reported letters of support for the Route 2 scenic byway designation have been received. Also, the Lake Champlain byway group approved the Grand Isle portion of the overall byway. Grand Isle would like the Scenery Preservation Council to take action on the designation. The corridor management plan is done. A public hearing was held in Grand Isle and only supportive testimony was heard. The SPC's recommendation with regard to the Route 2 byway will be forwarded to the Transportation Board for further action. The change in support and acceptance for the byway designation from none to complete support was mentioned, and the effort of key people in the area to secure the designation was noted.

MOTION by Tordis Isselhardt, SECOND by Lew Sorenson, to formally recommend to the Transportation Board the Route 2 Grand Isle byway designation. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

Peter Gregory will notify Ruth Wallman and compile an information packet for the Transportation Board.

3. UPDATE ON SCENIC BYWAYS GRANT PROGRAM FOR FY07

It was noted the Vermont byways program is modeled after the federal byways program. Federal funds are received for the state program, but do not dictate how Vermont runs the program. Presently, the federal byways program is grouping two fiscal years of grants into the next round of applications, but states will not receive two year's worth of funding. Essentially, a federal fiscal year's worth of awards is being skipped so the federal program can get back on track. Peter Gregory mentioned the chairman of the federal byways program is the senator from Minnesota who started the byways program initially so federal funding for the program may be protected.

Peter Gregory will send a complete list of grants awarded in Vermont, works in progress, and the schedule to SPC members for discussion at the next meeting. A presentation from LTF on the status of past and present grants awarded in Vermont will be heard at the next meeting. Bruce Hyde, Commissioner of the Marketing and Tourism Division, will be invited to the next meeting. Scenic byway projects have a tourism and economic development focus. It was noted the national newsletter, VISTA, is very informative. Senator Maynard suggested the SPC give a presentation on projects to the Senate Transportation Committee

Lew Sorenson mentioned byway signs should be posted for the Connecticut River byway (national designation) in 2007.

There was brief discussion of the differences between a Waypoint Center being a regional visitor center with bathroom facilities and regional information and a Visitors Center which offers state tourist information. The terminology is specifically chosen due to federal funding streams. An Interpretive Center provides information on learning about resources in the region and how to protect them. The centers are similar, but serve different purposes. Senator Maynard noted motor homes (RVs) need better directions to treatment plants or facilities where they can empty their waste water systems.

4. UPDATE ON ROUTE 30 AND ROUTE 7

Route 7

Peter Gregory reported Addison County is investigating designation of Route 7 as a scenic byway. Staff offered to hold a public meeting in January, 2007, in New Haven to discuss the scenic byway program. Tourists are already traveling the scenic roads, but the region is seeking a funding source outside regular funds to construct facilities for the tourists. Byway money is being sought beyond federal highway funding and local/state matches. Byway designation is a bottom up movement. Townspeople decide locally if a road through town should be designated.

Hull Maynard shared stories about his newly rebuilt house (following a fire) which is a bed and breakfast called "High Pastures" located nine miles off Route 7. Jill Michaels suggested a SPC meeting be held at the site at some point.

Route 30

Peter Gregory stated to avoid dissenters of having Route 30 designated as a byway, designating Route 22 was explored. Route 22 meanders into New York State a bit. There was no public support for pursuing byway designation for Route 22. There appears to be support for byway designation of Route 30 in towns south of Castleton to Manchester. The SPC suggested finding supporters in Castleton to discuss the byway designation and garnering support from the general public in Castleton and Hubbardston. Only a few individual property owners are not in support of the designation and these individuals have been speaking to the respective selectboards. Senator Maynard mentioned how right-of-way problems relative to the Route 7 improvements between Rutland Town and Brandon were settled with local authorities rather than involving the state, and suggested this may work in Castleton and Hubbardston.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Champlain Events

Tordis Isselhardt reported there is much happening to prepare for the 400-year celebration of the discovery of Lake Champlain. Committees (Infrastructure, Celebrations & Events, Education & Interpretive to name a few) are working together. The International Commission on Monuments and Sights based in Quebec will be involved in the celebration. Thanks to Senator Jeffords, a million dollars per year for the next 10 years has been authorized for the Champlain heritage area (what has been appropriated is not known at this time, but some funding will be available in 2007). The Vermont travel industry conference will cover partnerships and collaborations, the quad centennial, the Champlain heritage area, regional guides, genealogy, and other topics.

Conferences

Announcement was made of the Federal Highway National Byway Conference in Baltimore in May, 2007. The conference is a good opportunity to see what other states are doing with regard to leveraging economic development, tourism, and marketing.

Website versus Brochure

Senator Maynard urged using the SPC website to inform the public about scenic byways in the state rather than a brochure. It was noted the SPC brochure is more informational, explaining what a scenic byway is rather than a marketing tool to bring people to the state.

6. NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting: January 29, 2007, 3 p.m., Montpelier. (Staff will contact SPC members to confirm the date.)

Agenda Items:

- Update on grants awarded in Vermont and those in process
- Yellowwood & Associates Byways Study
- Christine Menke to discuss representing byways in state marketing materials
- Kennedy will have draft brochure ready for approval

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hull Maynard, SECOND by Matt Langham, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by M. Riordan, Recording Secretary.

To Do List from 11/20/06 SPC Meeting:

1. Peter Gregory will notify Ruth Wallman and compile an information packet for the Transportation Board.
2. Peter Gregory will send a complete list of grants awarded in Vermont, works in progress, and the schedule to SPC members for discussion at the next meeting.
3. A presentation from LTF on the status of past and present grants awarded in Vermont will be heard at the next meeting.
4. Bruce Hyde, Commissioner of the Marketing and Tourism Division, will be invited to the next meeting.
5. Senator Maynard suggested the SPC give a presentation on projects to the Senate Transportation Committee.
6. Tom Kennedy will contact Christine Menke regarding attending the next SPC meeting to discuss representing byways in state marketing materials.
7. Staff will confirm the next meeting date of 1/29/07 at 3 p.m. in Montpelier.