

**SCENERY PRESERVATION COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
VERMONT STATE HOUSE
ETHAN ALLEN ROOM
MONTPELIER, VERMONT
February 13, 2006**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Michaels, Chairwoman
Tordis Isselhardt Diane Gayer
Lew Sorenson Danielle Fitzko
Rep. Deb Evans Matt Langham

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Hull Maynard

STAFF: Peter Gregory
Tom Kennedy
John LaBarge

OTHERS PRESENT: Marianne Riordan, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jill Michaels called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes of January 9, 2006

MOTION by Diane Gayer, **SECOND** by Deb Evans, to approve the 1/9/06 minutes with the following corrections/clarifications:

- Page 2, Item #4, Connectivity – change “provide” to “provides”;
- Page 3, Item #5, statement by Diane Gayer regarding signage – change “note about signage” to “section about signage” and add “that describes signage and the issues around signage”;
- Page 3, Item #6, Promoting Scenic Byways at Conferences, 2nd sentence – delete the comma (,) following the word “Heritage”;
- Page 3, Item #6, Existence of SPC, 1st sentence – delete “due to the reorganization at VTrans” and add the word “and” to combine the 1st and 2nd sentences following which add a sentence reading: “John LaBarge pointed out the ‘grey area’ in the law.”

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

2. REVIEW STATUS OF “TO DO” LIST FROM LAST MONTH

It was noted several of the items on the “To Do” list are agenda items and would be covered later in the meeting. Tom Kennedy reported on his success with the New England Planning Association and having byways included on the agenda for the fall conference. The SPC must supply resource people. Members of the National Byway Resource Center are willing to come to the conference as well. Tom Kennedy will follow up with both organizations. Danielle Fitzko reported MOMS (Municipal Officers

Management Seminar) is interested in having byways on their fall conference agenda as well. Ms. Fitzko will follow up on this matter.

Regarding the existence of the SPC, John LaBarge reported he contacted John Dunleavey for clarification on the SPC, but has not heard back from him as yet. Mr. LaBarge will contact Neil Lunderville in the Governor's Office. Deb Evans and John LaBarge will follow up on the matter and report to the Council at the next meeting.

3. REVIEW/APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE BYWAY PROGRAM MANUAL

The following changes were made following review of the revised Byway Program Manual:

- Page 10, Nomination Process, last paragraph, 2nd sentence – change the word “definition” to “description”;
- Page 15, Item 6.e, 1st sentence – change “from time to time” to “as necessary”;
- Page 15, Item 6.e, 2nd paragraph – change “road’s” to “byway’s” and insert the last sentence in the section (“There may be certain situations that require a review on less than an entire length of a designated byway.”) after the first sentence in the second paragraph.

MOTION by Tordis Isselhardt, SECOND by Diane Gayer, to approve the amendments to the Byway Program Manual. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

4. REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATIONS

The SPC received the following grant applications (with federal dollar request):

- Bike path (Burlington) - \$511,500
- Mad River Byway (Rte. 100B) - \$39,100
- Hartland/Windsor - \$111,000
- Lake Champlain interpretive - \$128,450
- Connecticut River strategic plan - \$128,160
- Connecticut River seed grant - \$50,000

Staff will attempt to schedule site visits to Route 100B, Hartland, and the bike path. SPC members will attend as their schedules allow. The applicants will present their proposals to the SPC on 2/27/06 (15 minute presentation followed by questions from the SPC for total time allotment per applicant of 30 minutes). Areas to cover by the applicants include an explanation of how their proposals relate to the activities taking place in the area (this especially applies to the Lake Champlain applications). Tordis Isselhardt suggested a primer be compiled outlining the groups planning activities around Lake Champlain. There was agreement all the groups need to be communicating so the vision for the area is clear, however, it was not certain the SPC should be requiring this information in the grant application presentations. Peter Gregory will contact the Lake Champlain Byways Council about the application(s) and connection to other planned activities in the Lake Champlain area (i.e. quadrennial celebration). Mr. Gregory will also contact the Connecticut River Byway Council for comments on their applications. John

LaBarge suggested the applicants bring any letters of support not submitted with the application to the presentation.

There was discussion of the state match to grants. John LaBarge said the state matches to the applications submitted to date are not a problem. With some of the applications, the Federal Highway Administration wants to see more of a description of the “soft match” (how staff time is being used). Federal criteria for “soft match” are available. Nongovernmental services only qualify for “soft match”. The state match will be handled properly and consistently, assured Mr. La Barge, adding LTF does an internal review to make sure there is enough money requested so the project can be done completely.

5. UPDATES

Route 100B Designation

The scenic byway hearing by the Vermont Transportation Board is 2/14/06. Tom Kennedy will attend.

Route 30 Planning

Work continues on designating the Route 30 byway. Castleton is not supportive and it appears Hubberton is now uncertain of its support. All Rutland County towns are supportive of the designation.

Route 100 Planning

Steve Gladczuk has been meeting with towns from 100B south to Granville to gauge support for byway designation. The enthusiasm of the attendees has not been as great as the Mad River Byway.

Brattleboro

Brattleboro is not interested in doing their project as presented to the SPC. Staffing is an issue and the building may not be structurally sound.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Fairlee Funding

Matt Langham reported FHWA indicated the funds for Fairlee will be applied to St. Johnsbury and Lake Champlain. Fairlee did not regain funding authority. The state lost all but \$7,000 on the project (\$168,000 lost).

Molly Stark Byway Council Annual Meeting

Tordis Isselhardt reported there will be a presentation on signage for the Molly Stark Trail at the annual meeting of the Molly Stark Byway Council.

7. NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting(s): February 27, 2006 (presentations), 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Montpelier.
April 10, 2006, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., Montpelier (4/17/06 back up date)

Agenda Items for 4/10/06: Link on website to signage information; Brochure update.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by M. Riordan, Recording Secretary.

“To Do” List from 2/13/06 SPC meeting:

1. Tom Kennedy will follow up with the New England Planning Association and the National Resource Center regarding byways on the agenda of the fall conference(s).
2. Danielle Fitzko reported MOMS (Municipal Officers Management Seminar) is interested in having byways on their fall conference agenda as well. Ms. Fitzko will follow up on this matter.
3. Mr. LaBarge will contact Neil Lunderville in the Governor’s Office. Deb Evans and John LaBarge will follow up on the matter of the existence of the SPC.
4. Peter Gregory will contact the Lake Champlain Byways Council about the application(s) and connection to other planned activities in the Lake Champlain area (i.e. quadrennial celebration). Mr. Gregory will also contact the Connecticut River Byway Council for comments on their applications.