

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
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM #2
MONTPELIER, VERMONT
April 17, 2006**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Hull Maynard
Matt Langham
Danielle Fitzko
Sue Minter

STAFF: Peter Gregory
Tom Kennedy
John LaBarge

OTHERS PRESENT: Bruce Hyde, ACCD/VDTM
Barb Harding, Addison County & Lake Champlain Byway
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 February 27, 2006

MOTION by Tordis Isselhardt, SECOND by Deb Evans, to approve the 2/27/06 minutes with the following corrections/clarifications:

Page 3, top paragraph (beginning with “Diane Gayer suggested...”) – delete the sentence reading: “All six intrinsic values must be engaged.”, and in the sentence beginning with “Tordis Isselhardt explained...” – replace the word “must” with “should” to read “...should be shown”.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

2. BYWAY APPLICATIONS RECAP

It was noted the Council was sent updates via email on the applications reviewed by the FHWA. There was discussion of re-submissions and ranking (i.e. reclassify with new submissions or send in unranked). Jill Michaels suggested a three or four point procedure be drafted for future use. Peter Gregory and John LaBarge will further research the matter.

3. QUAD CELEBRATION

Bruce Hyde, Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing, reviewed planned events to celebrate the 400 year anniversary of Samuel de Champlain's arrival to the area. The events highlight the history, culture, lineage, and genealogy of the area. In 2009, a year long celebration will be held to include a 500 ship regatta, fireworks, and many festivals. Meetings are being held with towns, planning commissions, chambers of commerce, and the public to discuss the planned celebrations. Bike/pedestrian path projects are being tied to the quad-centennial celebration in 2009. Sen. Leahy's office is working on a bi-state commission (New York and Vermont), but New York already has a Fulton/Hudson/Champlain Commission and its focus is from Albany south. It is hoped some federal money may be available for the events. There is \$100,000 dedicated in the Vermont budget for quad-centennial activities. Quebec City has their 400th anniversary in 2008. The country of France is excited to work with Vermont on arts and culture events for the celebration, stated Mr. Hyde. Lakes-to-Locks has done much groundwork on wished for infrastructure improvements for the 2009 celebration. The New York and Vermont commissions will work together on the 400th anniversary events.

Comments/suggestions on the planned celebration(s) should be forwarded to Bruce Hyde.

4. REVISION TO SPC BROCHURE/WEBSITE

The following revisions were discussed:

1. Add Mad River Byway.
2. Show actual colors in photos in brochure.
3. Add more information on the website and change photos to reflect byways statewide.
4. Use same color key in brochure as on website and eliminate "squiggly" lines to denote byways.
5. Mention Connecticut River Byway as a national scenic byway.
6. Have text/captions in brochure to support photos and better promote byways.
7. Add Way Point communities to brochure/website.

Forward comments on the brochure to Tom Kennedy and comments on the website to John LaBarge. There was discussion of doing an informational post card printed front and back rather than a brochure to inform the public of byways. Barb Harding observed the target audience for a brochure giving an overview of byways in the state is towns and organizations interested in developing a byway. To the general public a "byway" is very confusing. The organization working to establish a byway should produce a brochure specific to their effort. Bruce Hyde noted he tried without success to have byways more prominently shown on the state map. John LaBarge suggested doing a promotional brochure for Welcome Centers on byways in Vermont. The brochure could be a joint effort with Tourism and Marketing. Following further discussion, there was agreement a promotional brochure for travelers is needed as well as a brochure about the byways program targeted for towns. John LaBarge will canvas the byway commissions to determine their position on being included on the state map and communicate with Bruce Hyde on this matter.

5. LAKE CHAMPLAIN BYWAY UPDATE

Barb Harding reported on the Route 30 designation. Middlebury is willing to extend their border (of the byway), Cornwall supports the byway, and Whiting is still considering the matter. Castleton and Sudbury remain opposed to the byway designation. The request will be for designation south of Castleton to Route 30. With regard to connection to the Lake Champlain byway, Route 7 is the obvious choice for connection from Middlebury. The byway in Chittenden County will include New Haven, Waltham, and Ferrisburg. Vergennes is connected via Route 22A. At the Rte. 7/Rte.22A intersection there is a proposed welcome center and park-n-ride facility which is separate from the Rokeby visiting center. It was noted Route 125 is a scenic highway, not a designated byway. Ms. Harding stated there are meetings scheduled with Lakes-to-Locks (New York byway commissions) to further the working relationship with the Lake Champlain Byway Committee and to discuss the quad-centennial celebration.

Regarding the Lake Champlain byway, John LaBarge reported Alburgh, North Hero, and St. Albans are on board with having a byway in the islands. South Hero wants support from the area businesses.

6. SCENERY PRESERVATION COUNCIL FY06 WORK PROGRAM

The FY06 Work Program was approved and signed by the Council.

7. UPDATES

Scenic Highway/Byway

It was noted a scenic highway is more regulated than a scenic byway with regard to how to maintain the road and what to preserve. A byway pertains more to maintaining resources along the route (i.e. the 'six intrinsic resources' including archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities). The Scenery Preservation Council is involved in both scenic highway and scenic byway designations.

Signage

John LaBarge reported the Connecticut River Byway is ready to go with trail signs and is working on directional signs to include the Connecticut River logo. A variance from OBDS is needed. FHWA has not yet provided a determination on the matter. Funding for the project must be obligated or returned to FHWA.

8. NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting(s): June 5, 2006, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., location TBA (possibly North Hero)

Agenda Items:

- Brochure update (layout, where distributed, any other issues)

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Lew Sorenson, SECOND by Deb Evans, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by M. Riordan, Recording Secretary.

“To Do” List from 4/17/06 SPC meeting:

1. Peter Gregory and John LaBarge will further research the matter of resubmission of an application and how the application should be ranked.
2. John LaBarge will canvas the byway commissions to determine their position on being included on the state map and communicate with Bruce Hyde on this matter.