

**Scenery Preservation Council
Public Hearing for Byway Designation
Rte. 100/ Mad River Byway Extension
October 18, 2007
6:30 PM
Waitsfield Elementary School**

In Attendance: Jill Michaels, Lew Sorenson, Rep. Debbie Evans, John LaBarge, Steve Gladczuk, Laurie Brines, Valerie Capels, Jared Cadwell, Chirch Martel, Garret Mott, Laurie Emery, Mac Rood, Linda Lloyd, Sal Spinosa, Jim Sanford

Lew Sorenson, Rep. Evans, and John LaBarge participated in a site tour of most of the byway in the afternoon. They were guided by Steve Gladczuk and Linda Lloyd.

The public hearing was called to order at 6:35 by Jill Michaels, Chair of the Scenery Preservation Council.

Everyone that was in attendance was familiar with the proposed byway and waived a presentation.

It was stated by several members of the community that there was broad support for the proposed byway which was vetted through a series of public hearings and local meetings in three towns. It was felt that designation would tie the communities together.

Mr. Garret Mott, Buel's Gore Supervisor, said he was asked to come to the meeting to express concerns the residents of the Gore had with the designation. He did want to make it clear that Buel's Gore supported the byway concept and did not want to stop the designation but did want to express some concerns.

The concerns focused on the possibility of increased traffic and an increase in the number of signs through the gap region. Mr. Mott stated that there were numerous crashes in that area each year and residents were concerned about an increased volume in traffic. Mr. Mott was also concerned about losing parking spaces at the top of the Appalachian Gap, if it was reconfigured. He also stated that residents did not wish to see a "bunch of signs" added to the gap road which could ruin the natural beauty of the area. The committee noted his concerns.

John LaBarge stated that there has been no evidence of a large increase in traffic stemming from a byway designation. He also stated that Vermont has some of the strictest sign laws in the country and that he did not see an abundance of signs being installed in the gap area. Garret was also concerned about losing parking spaces at the top of the Appalachian Gap, if it was reconfigured.

Valerie Capels, Waitsfield Town Administrator, stated that the plan was very good, and asked if there was anything the SPC felt was lacking. SPC responded that the plan was complete. Valerie also requested that restoration of the General Wait House Barn to expand the Visitor Center and add display space could be added to the plan. She also wanted the Byway Committee's on going role, be included in the implementation section.

Steve Gladczuk responded that he would add those comments and concerns to the final plan.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 PM.