

**SCENERY PRESERVATION COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
NATIONAL LIFE BUILDING
FOURTH FLOOR, STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VERMONT
September 24, 2007**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Hull Maynard

STAFF: John LaBarge
Tom Kennedy
Peter Gregory

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Gladczuk, CVRPC
Linda Lloyd, Mad River Valley Planning District
Marianne Riordan, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Approval of July 23, 2007 Minutes & June 14, 2007 Public Hearing

MOTION by Lew Sorenson, SECOND by Deb Evans, to approve the minutes of 7/23/07 with the correction of the spelling of “Catherine Brooks”. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

MOTION by Tordis Isselhardt, SECOND by Lew Sorenson, to approve the minutes of the 6/14/07 public hearing in Manchester as presented. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

2. DISCUSSION OF ROUTE 100 CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

Steve Gladczuk, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, gave a brief summary of the endeavor which produced the Route 100 Corridor Management Plan for byway designation. A corridor management plan is being drafted for Route 100 from Waterbury to Stowe. Duxbury is resistant and not wanting to be involved. John LaBarge mentioned the federal byway program wants to know how the traveler’s experience is enhanced by the byway so this information should be included in the grant application. Also, a local newspaper’s article about designation of the byway managing growth is a problem because the byway program is not about growth, but rather about rehabilitation and

preservation. It is not regulatory in any way, stated Mr. LaBarge. There was discussion of misinformation on the byway program and growth, and the need to make it clear that local tools, such as zoning, are in place to handle growth. The purpose and objective of the byway program must be stressed. There was also discussion of alerting users to paths/trails off the byway with signs. At the national level there is discussion of the physical boundaries of the “corridor” within which the road (byway) exists.

There was mention of road widening work and guardrail installation on Route 100. Distinction was made between “scenic road” and “byway”. Lew Sorenson urged the Council to keep in mind the entire length of road as a potential byway, not just the portion described in the corridor management plan.

John LaBarge will set up a public hearing on the Mad River Byway Extension Corridor Management Plan.

MOTION by Diane Gayer, SECOND by Deb Evans, to approve the draft Mad River Byway Extension Corridor Management Plan, and to schedule a public hearing. VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

3. DISCUSSION/APPROVAL OF FY08 WORK PROGRAM

John LaBarge reported as of the end of September (end of the fiscal year), Tom Kennedy and Peter Gregory will no longer be staff for the SPC. John LaBarge is the Program Manager for the Vermont State Byways Program and will be working with Tourism & Marketing, Historic Preservation, covering the legislature, and producing the annual report. There are three state websites with links to byways (Tourism & Marketing, VTrans, and SPC).

There was discussion of the FY08 work program and emphasis on benchmarks rather than staff hours per task. The task of redoing the brochure needs to be included in the work plan. Also, existing groups, in-process groups (known but not designated) and emerging groups need to be identified and handled differently. Danielle Fitzko suggested due to the change in staffing, the roles of the SPC and the program need to be identified. Further exploration of the vision of the program may be necessary. Lew Sorenson added planning needs to be added to the work program.

Diane Gayer pointed out the SPC is more than byways. John LaBarge is a VTrans employee, directed by VTrans. Ms. Gayer questioned if the work load for the SPC and VTrans is integrated, and if the SPC is advisory to the work plan for John LaBarge established by VTrans or if the SPC establishes the work plan for Mr. LaBarge. Mr. LaBarge stated funding is the key element. VTrans will not fund more than the byways. VTrans invests 10% in byways. To get a return it must be demonstrated how the byway can increase tourism. Tom Kennedy noted John LaBarge will have a multitude of tasks within the byway program, and it will get complicated because there are overtures from others about non-byway dollars (i.e. marketing). The SPC will have to continue to be independent. A brief history of the “evolution” of staff support for the SPC and the byways program was given. There was robust discussion of the SPC role in the byways

program and the tasks to be assigned to John LaBarge as the byways program manager. Jill Michaels suggested adopting a six-month work program with long range planning as a major task. John LaBarge asked the SPC to identify and prioritize goals. Tordis Isselhardt mentioned the mission of the SPC is preserving scenery in Vermont. The mission is very broad. Lew Sorenson recalled the work done by Peter Gregory and Tom Kennedy in support of the SPC was limited to tasks reimbursable by FHWA and byways funding.

MOTION by Lew Sorenson, SECOND by Danielle Fitzko, to adopt the SPC Work Program inclusive of items 2.C and 4.D for the first six months of the fiscal year and with the following changes:

- **Add Item 1.B to read: “During the first part of the fiscal year, the SPC and staff shall meet to define goals, work programming, and respective roles.**
- **Rewrite Item 2.C to read: “Coordinate and assist with new byway designation efforts and consideration of additions to byway routes.**
- **Add “brochure” to Item 4.C to read: “...publish and distribute...at least one newsletter/brochure annually...”**
- **Delete the column of Staff Hours.**

DISCUSSION: It was confirmed development of the brochure and website should proceed in the next six months, and the brochure needs to be included in the work plan.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carried.

4. DISCUSSION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE TOURISM COORDINATOR POSITION

Neither Bruce Hyde nor Catherine Brooks were available to address the SPC.

5. REPORT ON NATIONAL BYWAYS CONFERENCE

No report given.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Hearing for Route 30

Tom Kennedy reported there is still confusion about the Route 30 designation. A meeting date before the Transportation Board has not yet been scheduled. John LaBarge will schedule a hearing before the Transportation Board for the Stone Valley Byway as soon as possible.

7. NEXT MEETING/AGENDA ITEMS

Next Meeting: October 29, 2007.

Agenda Items:

- Catherine Brooks, Cultural Heritage Tourism Coordinator, or a representative from Tourism & Marketing
- Planning Process
- Brochure and Website
- Action on Route 100 Byway (if public hearing has been held)

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

RScty: M.E.Riordan

“TO DO” List from 9/24/07 SPC Meeting:

1. John LaBarge will set up a public hearing on the Mad River Byway Extension Corridor Management Plan.
2. John LaBarge will schedule a hearing before the Transportation Board for the Stone Valley Byway as soon as possible.