

Vermont Scenery Preservation Council
March 8, 2007
National Life Building, 4th Floor, Conference Room #1

Attendance:

Lew Sorenson, SPC member
Diane Gayer, SPC member
Ruth Wallman, LCICC, Route 2 Byway
Lou Bresee, Lake Champlain Byway
Dan Senecal-Albrecht, CCRPC
Matthew Langham, SPC member
John LaBarge, State Byway Coordinator
Richard Kehne, ACRPC
Jill Michaels, SPC Member and Chair
Steve Gladczuk, CVRPC
Stephanie Veneina, Mad River Byway Committee & Town of Moretown
David Barthomele Leslie, Town of Grand Isle
Tordis Ilg Isselhardt, SPC member
Peter Gregory, SPC staff
Renne Perry, LCBC, City of Vergennes
Gail Freiden, Middlebury Business Association
Don Wexler, Town of Moretown

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

The minutes of November 20, 2006 were reviewed and approved as written. Thanks given again to Marianne for taking such complete minutes.

Gregory provided Council members with a couple of quick updates on efforts he has invested in on possible designations around Woodstock and the Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Park.

John LaBarge handed out new versions of the two Byway Implementation Project applications. Some Council members had not even seen any version. One is on the Lake Champlain Byway and one is on the Mad River Byway.

Representatives from both groups were in attendance in impressive numbers and walked the Council through the project applications. The Council members present asked many questions about project readiness, local support, matching funds, etc.

The Council thanked the groups for their efforts.

After further discussion among Council members, staff and the Byway Coordinator, it was felt that the mad River application as proposed was not complete and had some substantive problems related to site control, match and environmental review issues. The Council voted unanimously to rank the Lake Chaplain Project #1 and the Mad River Project #2. The vote to submit the Mad River Project on to FHWA was conditioned that the project be completely reworked and that staff was to ensure that the boiled down project was indeed competitive. If it was not, it was not to be forwarded to FHWA.

Several Council members had to leave prematurely, so staff apologized to Scott Gurley and asked him to attend the next SPC meeting to go over the status of the existing, open Byway implementation grants.

John LaBarge mentioned the Byway Summit on the 24th of April. None of the SPC members were aware of the event nor invited and many had conflicts. The Chair asked that there be an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss communication breakdowns issues like this and the confusion surrounding the just completed project scoring round.

Gregory was asked to poll members for a date in early May for the next meeting. The Stone Valley Designation request is likely to be on the agenda.

Minutes drafted by Peter Gregory
April 30, 2007