Approved

Mont Vernon Strategic Advisory Committee

Minutes of the September 20, 2022 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Pim Grondstra, Acting Chairman. Also present were committee members: Tim Angulas, Chris Blunt, Sean Yamamoto, Eileen Naber, Secretary, John Quinlan, Selectmen's Rep, and Jim Bird, Mont Vernon Planning Board Chairman.

Absent were: Andrew Stokinger, Heather Allain, Stephanie Vore Apple, Paul Lavertu.

PG presided at the meeting and ran the digital portion in the absence of PL.

First order of business was to ascertain we had a quorum in attendance. We do have five members present.

A motion by TA and seconded by SY to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2022 meeting passed. Because the digital file from the previous meeting was rearranged no corrections to those minutes was possible. EN mentioned that on our web page JQ is still not listed as Selectmen's Rep.

Discussion of the Master Plan 2012 (MP) was resumed at Natural Resources.

EN asked if the Heritage Commission is currently compiling a Natural Resources list. If so, wouldn't that be a duplicate effort. No member was aware of that.

The subject of marked walking trails was discussed. JB questioned whether those trails should be publicized if they are not on town own land. SY stated that only trails on town owned land should be. Most felt that was prudent.

Again emphasis on removing or updating all 2010 & 2011 data was stressed.. PG recommended that the Monkey Survey 2017 be eliminated as not current. Discussion of the value/necessity of some of the verbiage such as: Topography, Open Space, Soil Resources and Agriculture was held. Comments were mixed so no blanket elimination was recommended.

JQ asked if the Mont Vernon wetland ordinance should be in the Natural Resources section and JB replied "Yes". JB said that so much of the data in the MB is dated the town should do a new opinion survey. CB said that formulating the questions to be asked plays a vital role on what the responses will show.

TA questioned this statement under Benefits of Open Space: "it generates an average three times more revenue to the town than it consumes in town services." Everyone agreed that Open Space doesn't require services but relative financial benefit depends on whether private, town owned or in current use.

Proceeding to Soil Resources. Under Agriculture EN pointed out that we have more than one farm in town, Julie Whitcomb's. JB stated that Town rules for Mining & Excavations are minimal. However, the only nearby parcel currently being mined is the gravel pit on Salisbury Road which is in New Boston.

A discussion of best forest management procedures ensued. En was able to provide information on the process of having a timber cut for profit. JB explained just what a land owner can cut without having to pay taxes on it. The MP says that the Conservation Commission should be notified prior to a timber cut but PG wondered why they should be notified. No one could offer a reason. JB stated that they would have no say in the matter.

At 9:00 pm PG halted our review. We will pick up on page 22, Grasslands and Other Open Lands, at our next meeting on October 4, 2022.

Digitally recorded suggestions can be found on the Mont Vernon SAC website titled "Master Plan Working Document *with latest meeting date*". The lines highlighted in red are the suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen E. Naber

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