Montpelier Conservation Commission (MCC) Meeting May 9, 2019 – City Council Chambers

Members present – James, Michael, Charlie, Katie; Student members –

- Meeting started 7:13
- Overview of zoning and how the MCC plays a role (Dan Richardson from the DRB, Meredith from Zoning Office)
  - Rules of procedure should be buttoned up once applications come our way
    - DRC is similar in nature with somewhat informal charge
  - Recommendation forms
    - Example from DRC
  - No projects have triggered yet
  - Issues if the MCC does not meet deadlines
    - If we don’t have a quorum or miss a deadline
      - The project would move forward without an MCC review
  - An example of what we might be able to provide
    - Steep slopes along a river when a landowner
    - We might suggest more robust erosion control
    - Invasive species
    - Might suggest removing and planting natives
  - Zoning Office will loop in the MCC as early as possible
  - Conservation PUD will be the biggest lift
  - Suggested that one or two members represent the MCC at the DRB meetings
  - MCC recommendations should be worded in a way that can be turned into permit conditions from the DRB
  - Who is the City staff charged with helping the MCC
    - This person is charged with giving the MCC the information packet
    - Also, they should be supporting the MCC in general
  - There should be a recommendation form for each of the four/five types of review we do
  - The MCC should start building a catalog of information to call upon with the help of MCC’s city staff member
  - The MCC may require having certain types of experts on the commission
  - Start to have discussions in the abstract
  - Figure out the process
    - Not the hardest part, more of a formal conversation
  - Go to a DRB meeting to see how things play out

- Sustainable Montpelier Coalition
  - Laura from the SMC
  - Grew out of the Net Zero design competition, started about a year ago
    - Started with transportation as a start
    - Moving towards river access and stormwater
  - Trying to figure out to put all groups together to help with the river projects
  - Meeting in mid June for potential partners, Katie can be the point-of-contact
• Sean Beckett from NBNC
  o Master Naturalist Program
  o Two projects at a minimum will be picked by current Master Naturalist students
    ▪ The MCC will vote to make the sponsorship official and allocate funding
• How to get the group more engaged
  o What has changed over the years
  o Process for institutionalizing information
  o Polling the group to see if meeting times are an issue
  o How to make sure how projects are interesting enough
  o We could support projects from other groups as well
• Meeting adjourned 9:05pm