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ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday November 29, 2000

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Executive Board’s November 29th, 2000 meeting was held at the Chittenden Bank in Middlebury with Harvey Smith presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Bridport Ed Payne
Bristol Bill Sayre
Monkton Thea Gaudette
New Haven Harvey Smith
Weybridge Tom Yager
Whiting Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF:
Adam Lougee

GUESTS:
Jamie Stewart, ACEDC
Linda Stearns, ACCOC
David Nourse, Chittenden Bank

BUSINESS MEETING:

Harvey Smith, Chair of the Executive Board, called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. He asked the other members of the Executive Board to move to the discussion of the CEDS out of courtesy to our guests. Upon conclusion of that agenda item, we would move back to the remainder of the meeting.

Discussion of a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (“CEDS”):

Harvey welcomed Jamie and Linda and turned the discussion over to Jamie. Jamie explained that the CEDS constitutes a plan to allow organizations within Addison County to apply for Federal Economic Development Agency (“EDA”) funding. Allowing community organizations to access EDA funding can be the sole use for the CEDS. Generally, the work to create a CEDS has been done by the

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Economic Development offices on a framework already created by the Regional Planning Commissions. Jamie explained that the CEDS programs are relatively new to Vermont, because most of the state just qualifies. However, Jamie noted that he had spoken with Paul Denton, The Economic Development Administrator in who had administered the program in the Northeast Kingdom and in northern New Hampshire. Mr. Denton stated that the CEDS process worked if one put effort into it. New Hampshire has put in a lot of thought to its CEDS. It received \$3,000,000 of assistance to build a daycare last year. Saint Johnsbury had not expended a lot of effort; it received \$30,000 of funding last year.

Jamie proceeded to answer specific questions that the Executive Board had provided to him from their last meeting. Please see a copy of the questions and answers attached hereto. Jamie concluded that the EDA funding is an opportunity that he needs to pursue to remain competitive. He believes his ability will be greatly enhanced if he also has the planning commission and chamber's support.

Harvey asked about the wide variety of projects that could be funded. Jamie explained that the Economic Development Corporation was interested in incubator space. However, any organization in Addison County could use the funding. Accordingly, it could help provide funding for a lot of community needs. Harvey wondered who would prioritize which projects get funded. Jamie stated that the CEDS is merely a plan. If needs are identified within the CEDS, then a company may apply for funding to fulfill those needs. However, the CEDS will prioritize regional needs, and to that extent it prioritizes projects for EDA funding.

Ellen asked how long it takes for projects to be funded. Jamie explained that putting together the plan could take up to a year. Project funding could then also take another year.

Tom asked if ACEDC was writing the CEDS and how would the board controlling the CEDS be chosen. Jamie confirmed he would write the plan, and that the joint partners would be a core board and it might expand from there. Jamie stated he might apply for grant funds to fund writing the CEDS.

Harvey asked whether this program would directly compete with the private sector? Jamie stated that the structure is very different. Incubators are more than space; they also include services and exit strategies. The space also starts at below market rents and increases until the company can exit.

Ellen asked how large employers fit into a CEDS program. Jamie stated that they probably do not, but the funding may allow Vergennes to do something to help service good employers.

Bill stated that he was still very concerned about the competition with the private sector and other issues, like what if things differ between the regional plan and the CEDS.

The Executive Board thanked Jamie for his presentation, stated it would review the documents he had put together and continue the discussion.

***** Get Documents to the Chamber and to the Executive Board.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Thea moved to accept the minutes of the October meetings, modified to reflect that Harvey took over chair of the meeting after the TAC discussion. Ellen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Adam explained the Treasurer's Report. He noted that we had relatively heavy expenses this month mostly stemming from the Transportation Planning studies. Those expenses were causing us to draw down the accounts this month. However, we have receivables of about \$50,000 and will receive the second half of the DCA funding in January. Accordingly, the cash flow is down a little bit, but should be in good shape by the beginning of January.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACT 250: Adam noted that the Act 250 Committee had held a meeting this month to discuss the current projects in the county, including Middlebury College's Parking lot, McGrath's Storage sheds and the High School Addition in Vergennes. The Committee resolved that none of the applications triggered the criteria necessary for "regional significance" and took no action.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Harvey noted that he had attended the meeting last month and that it dealt mostly with the proposed bike/ped study. Harvey noted that the Consultants would be back before the committee next month.

Local Government Committee: Thea reported the Local Government Committee had a hearing November 15, 2000 to review the Ferrisburgh Town Plan. The Committee will make a recommendation concerning the Ferrisburgh plan at the next full commission meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Audit: The audit will be completed in December in time for our next meeting.

Other: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed Yearly Assessment for Towns. Thea moved to pass the budget with a 3% increase. After some discussion regarding the generally good finances of the Commission, Ed moved to amend Thea's motion to keep the rates the same as last year. Ellen also questioned why the Commission maintained a minimum amount on the dues, noting that only Whiting and Goshen were affected. Thea noted that the services rendered to towns were a bargain even when considering the minimum dues, and that the amount of discrepancy did not add up to very much money. **After some discussion the board voted unanimously to recommend to the Full Commission to level fund the budget.**

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Meeting with Deputy Secretary of Transportation, Micque Glitman. Adam announced that Ms. Glitman would be visiting the region on December 5th. He and Garrett Planned to take her on a tour of 5 of the TAC's priority transportation projects, including Route 22A in Downtown Vergennes, Hallock Road in New Haven where it intersects with Route 17, Cider Mill Road in Cornwall where it intersects with Route 125 and Middlebury to discuss the improvements proposed for Route 7 and the cross town bridge. Adam stated Garrett had also notified the TAC, town officials, and legislators and issued a general press release. All are welcome to attend.

Full Commission Meeting With Legislators. Adam reminded the Executive Board that December's Full Commission Meeting included a meeting with Addison County's legislative delegation and that he had asked the legislators to speak about land use issues. Harvey noted that he thought on-site septic systems would be a big topic this year. Bill asked Adam to make sure that the State still knows that the alternative systems have functioned well in Addison County and encouraged him to ask again about funding to continue those demonstration projects. Bill also requested that On Site Septic Disposal be put on the Executive Board's Agenda for the next meeting and encouraged Adam to speak with Gary Fern or Blair Enman concerning alternative systems and their ability to function properly with limited depth to ground water. Ed requested that if we found funding for an alternatives demonstration that one project be a separation system.

Other: None.

MEMBERS' CONCERNS/INFORMATION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **Thea moved to adjourn the meeting. Ellen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam G. Lougee