

DRAFT

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday December 27, 2000

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Executive Board's December 27th, 2000 meeting was held at the Regional Planning Commission office in Middlebury with Harvey Smith presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Bridport Ed Payne
Bristol Bill Sayre
Monkton Thea Gaudette
New Haven Harvey Smith

STAFF:
Adam Lougee

BUSINESS MEETING:

Harvey Smith, Chair of the Executive Board, called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. A quorum was not present at the time so the board moved to address issues not requiring any vote.

Audit: Adam passed out the audit. He noted that it was favorable and that Pauline had done an excellent job keeping the books. Adam noted that the only comment that the auditors had concerned our books being kept on paper and not on the computer. Adam stated that he and Pauline were working to address that concern and that Pauline had signed up for more computer courses this spring.

Meeting with Deputy Secretary Glitman: Adam noted that he felt the meeting went very well. It was well attended by local officials, concerned citizens, TAC members and legislators. Deputy Secretary Glitman stated she learned a great deal by seeing the projects. Adam stated he is especially hopeful that it may result in action to correct the sight distances at Hallock Road and in further action at Cider Mill Road. Garrett Dague, our transportation planner has drafted a letter following up on the meeting.

Bill Sayre joined the meeting at 7:50.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ed moved to accept the minutes of the November meetings. Bill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Adam explained the Treasurer's Report. He noted that we have a substantial amount of receivables this month, mostly stemming from the second of the DCA payments. He also noted that at roughly half way through the year, expenses were at 42% of the budget, reflecting management's decision to put off non-crucial items until the end of the year and that revenues, not including receivables stood at 46% of budget. If one were to include all receivables, revenues jump to 76% of that budgeted. In either case, cashflow is positive and the commission is in good financial shape.

Thea moved to accept the treasurer's report. Bill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACT 250: Adam noted that the only Act 250 activity this month involved a permit application for the renovations that have occurred and are planned at the Ferrisburgh Artisan's Guild on Route 7. Adam informed the Executive Board that this will be treated as a minor application by the District 9 Regional Commission and should have no regional impact.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Adam noted that the TAC meeting in December was relatively uneventful. The TAC had been scheduled to review the bike/ped plan, but Dean Pierce, the consultant leading the project had injured his eye and could not attend the meeting. Next months TAC meeting would look at the State of Vermont's Long Range Transportation Plan and also discuss the bike/ped plan.

Local Government Committee: Thea reported the Local Government Committee had received requests from the Towns of Goshen and Middlebury for regional review of their plans. Staff was currently reviewing the plans, would send out reports and she anticipated that the local government Committee would hold hearings in late January and early February.

OLD BUSINESS:

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:

The Executive Board in total expressed its displeasure at the way the CEDS process was moving forward. Bill stated that the Executive Board has very legitimate questions we need to get answered. These include fundamentally: What is a CEDS and what does it do? If it is merely a planning document to facilitate applications for federal dollars, that is one thing, but if it has regulatory affect, and will cause friction between the business and the planning community, that is another. The initial document Jamie supplied, "What is a CEDS?" stated on its last page that a CEDS may have regulatory effect.

After further discussion of concerns the Executive Board instructed Adam as follows:

- 1. Get the checklist for what requirements a CEDS has from the Administrative offices in Philadelphia.**
- 2. Figure out what, if any, affect switching this programs qualification requirements from impoverished to under employed will have for Addison County.**
- 3. If CEDS is a snapshot in time, figure out how would it get regulatory affect? Who would use it as such?**
- 4. Call other RPC directors, particularly, Peter Gregory, and ask for Green Mountain Development's CEDS.**
- 5. Write a letter to Jamie expressing support for economic development in the region, but expressing concerns, especially about federal control. Send a draft of the letter via e-mail to all by Friday. After you have received the Executive Board's comments, mail it to Jamie.**
- 6. Call NVED in St. Albans and understand their structure. See how they have done.**

Bill summed up the executive board's concerns about this program. The executive board is still not sure whether a CEDS will help economic development in Addison County. They do not want CEDS programs to compete with the private sector. Lastly, they would like to make sure all three partners are involved in steering and operating the CEDS if the each chose to pursue it.

Other: None

NEW BUSINESS:

See minutes from the first part of the meeting.

Other: None.

MEMBERS' CONCERNS/INFORMATION:

Ed stated that he would like to see the commission encourage the State of Vermont to contribute land in the Marbleworks it owns to a public/private partnership to develop an affordable housing project on the site. **Adam stated he would gather information on the site and report back to the Executive Board.**

Harvey asked about housing in general and the work staff had been performing. Adam stated that he believed Brandy had completed her work gathering statistical information on housing in the county **and would be ready to make a presentation at a full commission meeting shortly.**

Harvey requested that Adam put VAPDA on next E Board Agenda and get copies of minutes from the last couple of meetings.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **Thea moved to adjourn the meeting. Ed seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam G. Lougee