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ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 29th, 2002

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Executive Board's May 29th, 2002 meeting was held at the regional planning commission's office in Middlebury with Harvey Smith presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Bristol</i>	Bill Sayre
<i>Cornwall</i>	Don Shall
<i>Middlebury</i>	
<i>Monkton</i>	
<i>New Haven</i>	Harvey Smith, Chair
<i>Waltham</i>	Tom Yager
<i>Whiting</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF:
Adam Lougee

BUSINESS MEETING:

The Executive Board convened its regular meeting at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Don moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting. Ellen seconded the motion, which passed with none opposed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Adam noted that the Commission remained in good financial shape. **Ellen moved to accept the treasurer's report. Tom seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACT 250: Adam noted that three items of interest have come in within the past month. The Western Ridgeline Parking Lot Expansion and the Center for the Arts Parking Expansion at Middlebury College and the extending of the construction completion date for proposed improvements to Route 7 in Charlotte.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Tom reported that the TAC meeting was a joint meeting with Rutland concerning flooding on Route 73. Harvey suggested that we look into this further and if AOT is not following its own procedure, that we support the Rutland TAC process and send them a letter to that effect. Tom suggested that we take Harvey's concern to the TAC. Harvey asked Tom and Garrett to bring it to the next meeting. Harvey suggested that we also send the TAC agenda to the Executive Board. Don noted that he hiked to the old 3-mile bridge location just for fun and that it was the right spot for a bridge.

Housing Committee: We passed the Housing Section and amended the entire Regional Plan.

Local Government Committee: No items.

Natural Resources Committee: The Natural Resources Committee will hold another meeting on the Tuesday before the full commission meeting to complete its analysis of the Lake Champlain TMDL and continue to review the proposed Basin Planning outline.

OLD BUSINESS:

VAPDA Minutes: Adam distributed the April VAPDA minutes. All noted that they were too vague to ask any intelligent questions.

Annual Meeting: All thanked Bill and Tom for the tour of the forestry on A Johnson's property.

Resolution regarding Celebration Champlain and the Lake Champlain Basin Program: Adam distributed the Resolution that the county of Essex New York concerning the conditions of their support for the Heritage initiative. Adam will redraft the resolution, send it to the Full Commission in our next mailing for their approval and then forward it to the congressional delegation writing legislation to support heritage based economic development activity in the Lake Champlain Region.

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACTR Request: Adam noted that we were renewing our telephone contract and had discussed ACTR and ACSWD setting up their own telephone lines. Both were receptive to the idea, however, ACTR expressed concern about the cost (\$900) of establishing a new Centrex line. Jim Moulton, the Executive Director, asked Adam whether he would bring the idea to the Planning Commission Executive Board of splitting the cost of ACTR's new system with them to provide them with an incentive to move out on their own. The Board unanimously agreed that a phone system was a cost of doing business, that we had helped ACTR subsidize that cost for a long time and it was time for them to move forward. None wanted to see the RPC turn into a lending organization. They instructed Adam to speak with Jim.

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Water Issues:

Wetland Bill: Harvey explained that the House Agricultural Committee had sponsored a resolution promoting agricultural uses even in wet areas that have been traditionally cropped, but also supporting the value of wetlands. However, Harvey feared the House Ways and Means Committee, at the urging of ANR, has created a fee structure that will ultimately prohibit lands from being allowed to let lie fallow and then reconverted to agricultural uses. Harvey believes this bill would dramatically impact the ability of agriculture to retain the use of lands in production in the county. Tom Yager noted that this would also severely impact their ability to harvest forest products from areas near wetlands by making it impossible to access the lands with a road. Harvey requested that the Executive Board ask Adam to draft a letter strongly opposing these fee amendments. All agreed. Ellen expressed the concern that this would be extremely prohibitive of farming in Whiting. The Executive Board instructed Adam to draft a letter tomorrow and fax it up to the conference committee. They also requested that he also send it to the Addison County Delegation.

Onsite Legislation: The Executive Board then moved to a discussion of the Onsite legislation. Harvey discussed the house version of S27. Adam reviewed the memorandum he had sent to Representative Harvey Smith, Connie Houston and Dean George making recommendations regarding S27. He also recited conversations he had engaged in with Chris Rechia, of the Department of Environmental Conservation and with Clark Hinsdale III of the Farm Bureau. Adam explained that with some modifications he believed the Farm Bureau supported the legislation. Adam also explained a quick analysis Mr. Hinsdale had done on the soils in the county to determine how Addison County would fair under the new legislation. Mr. Hinsdale figured that under the current state regulations about 10% of the soils in the county could support wastewater systems. Under the new legislation, Mr. Hinsdale calculated that about 50% of the soils would support some type of system.

Tom expressed concern regarding how the universal jurisdiction the bill creates over existing houses and lots would affect landowners with systems built under the 10-acre exemption when they tried to sell their lots in the future. Bill seconded Tom's concerns.

Ellen noted that the Whiting Selectboard had recently repealed the town's septic regulations because the regulations had worked to prohibit new construction in Whiting. She expressed concern as to whether the new systems would help Whiting and whether they would be affordable.

Harvey stated that he would continue to work hard on this issue in the legislature to try to make sure that if any legislation passed, it would produce the best results for Addison County and directed Adam to speak with Karl concerning the bill tomorrow and to get back in touch with any other concerns.

Other items: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam Lougee