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ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING *October 30th, 2002*

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Executive Board's October 30th, 2002 meeting was held at the regional planning commission's office in Middlebury with Harvey Smith presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Orwell
Cornwall
Middlebury Karl Neuse
Monkton Thea Gaudette
New Haven Harvey Smith, Chair
Waltham Tom Yager
Whiting Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF: _____
Adam Lougee

BUSINESS MEETING:

The Executive Board convened its regular meeting at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ellen moved to accept the minutes of the August meeting. Karl seconded the motion to adopt the minutes, 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.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACT 250: No Action.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Tom noted that at its last meeting the TAC had reviewed certain applications for Enhancement Grant. It had voted to endorse both the Addison County Transit Resources application for bike racks for its buses and the Middlebury Area Land Trust application for sidewalks and stormwater improvements along Weybridge Street in Middlebury. The Executive Board ratified both of those recommendations. Additionally, Adam shared a letter Garrett Dague, ACRPC's Transportation Planner, had drafted on behalf of the TAC to be sent to Secretary Searles expressing concern about the number of roadway projects that VTrans has delayed in Addison County because of its budgetary constraints. The letter requests that VTrans try to restart these projects as soon as possible and also requests that the TAC be kept up to date on

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progress. The Executive Board also approved this letter. Lastly, Adam brought the Executive Board a letter from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and VTrans requesting support for an enhancement grant to map archeological resources in a GIS format. Adam explained that the request had come in after the TAC meeting so that he was bringing it to the Executive Board to review if they chose too. Adam also shared correspondence from other Regional Planning Commission's concerning the application. In general, most thought that the database would be a good resource to develop, but questioned whether the Enhancement Grants were an appropriate revenue source to fund the work. Adam also noted that each region could endorse two priority projects and that the TAC had already chosen two projects. After some discussion, the Executive Board instructed Adam to politely decline to endorse the application.

Housing Committee: No action.

Local Government: The Committee will hold a public hearing in November on Bristol's Town Plan.

Economic Development: Harvey reported the committee is working on the plan. He asked whether the Committee had the ability to change the Vision Statement in the beginning of the Plan if the Economic Development content of that vision had changed. The Executive Board felt that changes dealing with Economic Development would be appropriate.

Utilities and Facilities: Ellen noted that the committee had met three times. It had organized itself, began to review the objectives and created a list of questions for VELCO. Ellen also stated that the committee wanted to create a panel of experts for the proposed VELCO meeting in January. Tom noted that we wanted to encourage a factual debate, not merely emotional debate. The Executive Board approved that approach and instructed Ellen and Brady to put together a good scientific panel. The last meeting involved water supply. Ellen noted they had met with the Division for Water Supply to cover the topic.

Natural Resources Committee: No Action.

Old Business:

VAPDA Minutes: None.

CEDS: Thea reported that the CEDS was pulling all the reports together and that each sector had created so that they would have a draft final report prepared some time toward the beginning of the year.

Other items: None

New Business:

Update on Staff Activities:

Adam shared summaries of projects that each member of the staff is working on and invited questions concerns or comments from the Executive Board on specific projects. The summaries of activities are attached hereto.

Adam also noted that he had hired a new watershed planner to replace Hilary. Her name is Nell Fraser. She will work approximately 18 hours per week and continue the work that Hilary began. Adam noted that Nell currently works for Stone Environmental as a staff scientist doing surface water studies. She will remain in that position part-time and work the other part-time for us. In addition to her work experience, Nell has a Masters in Watershed Science and Management from the University of Massachusetts, is a past member of the Lewis Creek Association and a current member of the Charlotte Conservation Commission. Adam noted that she carries herself very professional and should be an excellent addition to the staff.

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During the course of the discussion regarding the new Onsite rules, Karl suggested that the Regional Planning Commission should contact the towns in the region with local septic regulations and advise them of their options under the new regulations.

Other: Lake Champlain Basin Program and Senator Jeffords Heritage Legislation. Adam distributed an e-mail he had received from Catherine Dimitruk, the Executive Director of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission. The e-mail, from a member of Senator Jeffords' staff to a member of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission's staff noted that the Senator's Heritage Legislation had passed the Senate at a dramatically reduced funding level and may or may not pass the house. Tom Berry, Senator Jeffords' staffer also noted that he felt the comments made by ACRPC and NRPC expressing concern over the lack of local representation on the Steering Committee of the Lake Champlain Basin Program were irreconcilable with the bill. Catherine from Northwest had responded that in fact they were not irreconcilable and that the obvious solution was to change the makeup of the Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee to give a meaningful voice to local officials. The Executive Board agreed that this constituted a logical course of action consistent with the resolution passed by the full commission and advised Adam to maintain that course of action.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam Lougee