

DRAFT

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
May 28, 2003

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

ROLL CALL

Orwell

Cornwall Don Shall

Middlebury

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 7:10 p.m. Harvey Smith presided as Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Thea moved to accept the April minutes and Ellen seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Adam noted that revenues and expenses are running even through the end of May. Fund balances remain strong, but the budget is tight this year and Adam noted he needs to watch billing to keep a balanced budget for the end of the year. Ellen moved to accept the report and Tom seconded. All approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Local Government Committee: Thea noted that the Committee held a public hearing in May on Leicester's town plan. She is pleased to report that the plan was complete and well thought out and that the committee will be recommending it to the Full Commission for approval at the June meeting.

ACT 250: Adam noted that he had sent out notice of the Act 250 hearing on the Norris site. He noted that as of the meeting most of the committee had responded that we should monitor the process, but not take a strong position regarding it unless requested to weigh in by the Town of New Haven or other constituents.

Economic Development: The Committee met yesterday. Adam did not have a report.

Natural Resources: The Committee has set a meeting for June. Adam noted that Nell was looking for a site visit. Harvey noted that it was just an idea and that she shouldn't worry too much about the site visit.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met at the Middlebury airport to hear a discussion of the State's Aviation Plan and specifically improvements to the Middlebury Airport.

Utilities and Facilities: Ellen noted that the committee had met with the fire fighters in the county regarding emergency services. The fire fighters noted that their biggest need revolved around training, especially for volunteers. Ellen also noted that the mobile command post that ACRPC is helping to fund with some of its project impact money will help solve the current problem that prohibits the two services from speaking with one another. The committee deferred its discussion on the water and wastewater facilities until next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

VAPDA minutes: Adam circulated the minutes from the April VAPDA Meeting. The Executive Board questioned the Archeological sites management. Harvey questioned what constitutes a significant site. He also noted that Vermont needs to weigh the benefit to society of the discovery of a single arrowhead against the significant costs associated with recovering one. Tom suggested that we speak with the full commission and have a program discussing archeological sensitivity with a balanced program including Giovana, a developer and other interested parties. Don asked that the State be asked to present the current law, how this might impact its application.

TAC Bylaws: Following up on last meeting, Harvey noted that he had spoken with Pat McDonald and that she had given him the impression that we would probably not be successful in finding any specific guidance and that the governance of each TAC was allowed to be created by each regional planning commission and governance were set up

individually region by region. Hence no standard practice exists. Adam noted that this years TPI Workplan memo contained much of the same information and conclusion. The Executive Board then engaged in a discussion of the role of the TAC vs. the Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee. Thea noted that she felt that the TAC should be different from the Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Advisory Committee and that its role should focus more on the immediate needs where the RPC should focus on longer term planning. Don questioned whether two committees would be redundant. Tom echoed his concerns about redundancy and number of meetings, and scarcity of human resources.

Harvey suggested that we renew our conversation with the Secretary to get whatever further information exists and bring it to the next meeting.

Annual Meeting: The Executive Board was pleased with the Annual Meeting.

Strategic Plan for Celebration Champlain: Adam Lougee noted that the Vermont Byways Partnership was still struggling along to create a plan, but that he and the other RPCs had discussed a proposal to create a Vermont coordinator to help create the plan in Vermont, get by some of the personality conflicts and move the project forward. Adam stated that all of the RPCs in the Champlain Valley had tentatively agreed to put some money into the pot from their transportation funding to fund the coordinator and requested the support of the Executive Board. Thea moved that the Executive Board allow Adam to shift \$3,000 in transportation funds to support hiring a Vermont coordinator to complete the Byways project. Tom Yager abstained from the vote.

Other Old Business: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Northwest Vermont Planning Proposal: Adam distributed the letter he had sent to Greg Brown regarding a planning proposal that Addison County might participate in with Chittenden County and all the surrounding counties regarding transportation corridors. Adam explained that because of the Circ Highway construction, Chittenden County anticipated getting a large earmark of planning funds over the next three years and had proposed working jointly with other regions in the area that contributed to the commuting workforce in Chittenden County. Harvey noted that the title of the proposal that Chittenden County had submitted included the phrase smart growth and noted that as a commission we had never adopted "Smartgrowth" as a goal and also that "Smartgrowth" meant different things to different people. Harvey suggested that we have a discussion at the full commission regarding this proposal and asked Adam to invite Greg Brown and Bill Knight to speak to the full commission regarding the proposal. The Executive Board also noted that we should continue to move ahead as part of the study group.

Other New Business: Thea suggested that we should invite incoming members of the Executive Board to the June meeting. Thea also suggested that the review an Act 250 application case study for one of our next programs.

ADJOURNMENT: Don moved and Thea seconded a motion to adjourn, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam G. Lougee