

DRAFT

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
June 25, 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

<i>Cornwall</i>	Don Shall
<i>Middlebury</i>	Karl Neuse
<i>Monkton</i>	Thea Gaudette,
<i>New Haven</i>	Harvey Smith, Chair
<i>Waltham</i>	
<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:

Ellen moved to accept the May minutes and Thea seconded the motion, noting a typographical error to William Knights' name needed to be changed. 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. He noted that receivables were high; as he and Pauline were making sure all work that occurred in this fiscal year is billed in this fiscal year. Thea moved to accept the report and Ellen seconded. All approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Local Government Committee: No Action.

ACT 250: Adam noted that no new applications had come in since last meeting.

Economic Development: The Committee did not have a quorum last meeting for the second time. Several of the committee members have been pulled away to other things. Adam suggested that it might benefit the committee if it postponed its meeting until September when some new members were appointed to re-invigorate the committee.

Natural Resources: The Committee met in June and visited sites on the Middlebury River in East Middlebury and observed some of the geomorphic work Kristen Underwood is undertaking on behalf of the commission.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met to discuss how it would allocate the \$50,000 in funds that the Regional Planning Commission allocates to transportation studies each year. Adam noted that the TAC had received seven competing proposals had chosen finalists and would be interviewing the final projects at its next meeting.

Utilities and Facilities: Ellen noted that the committee had met (Please get from Brandy I am afraid I missed the report).

OLD BUSINESS

VAPDA minutes: Adam circulated the minutes from the May VAPDA meeting. Harvey questioned the collaborative review process with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development since it was a new program. Adam noted that he met with Faith Ingulsrud, the staff planner at ACCD serving as the liaison to the Addison region and had discussed our Workplan and budget with them last year and anticipated that the collaborative review process for this year would be similar.

TAC Bylaws: The Executive Board again discussed the TAC and its relationship to the regional planning commission and, if the Transportation Advisory Committee of the regional planning commission is a different entity, what are the relationships between the two bodies. Adam distributed a discussion of each region's TAC created by Mel Adams, the Director of the Policy and Planning Division of VTrans. It gave a brief history of the purpose of TACs and concluded that the structure of the TAC was left to the discretion of each regional planning commission. Thea stated that she felt that the TAC and Regional Planning Commission's Transportation Committee were two different bodies with separate functions. The Transportation Committee would perform the long-term planning function and the TAC would perform the day-to-day work, let bids, and deal with day-to-day issues. Don expressed the opinion that the TAC should be separate from the regional planning commission's committee, having different functions, but in the capacity of a semi-autonomous sub-committee of the Transportation Committee. The board noted that the regional planning commission appropriates a certain portion of its budget and allows the TAC to allocate those funds to transportation projects, but that the regional planning commission was fiscally responsible for the funds. All want to create a strong TAC and give it meaningful work, however, the group failed to come to consensus regarding a structure that provided a fair degree of autonomy, but retained a working chain of command.

After a long discussion, Karl moved and that a sub-committee of the Executive Board consisting of Thea and Don get together with TAC chair John Emerson and work out an agreement. Ellen Seconded the motion and all approved.

Strategic Plan for Celebration Champlain and Lake Champlain Byways: Adam noted that the group had hired Bruce Brown and Ghostwriters as the Vermont coordinator. He noted that the Middlebury group had produced a productive segment and that he hoped the rest of the plan could begin to move along. Adam also noted that we would continue to coordinate with New York and that Bruce had a good working relationship with Janet Kennedy.

Weatherwax/Addison Beach: Adam noted that he was encountering some opposition in Vtrans to amending the project from that strictly within the application. He stated that he believed all the amenities he and the Town of Addison wanted to include in the plan were fundable under the program, that it was in every one's best interest to make the program work and that he would be pursuing his plan higher up the chain of command in Vtrans. Harvey noted that he would be willing to speak to the Commissioner if that became necessary.

Other Old Business: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Vergennes Basin Redevelopment. Adam noted that the City of Vergennes had received a Byways grant a couple of years ago to make some improvements to the Otter Creek Basin. He also noted they had matching money from GMP available. The new City Manager, Renny Perry, had asked the regional planning commission to help it administer the grant. Adam expressed his opinion that this is a great project and that he would be interested in doing the work and that administrative funds existed to support the work. The Executive Board voted unanimously to encourage Adam to aid Vergennes with the project.

Review of Executive Director. The Board instructed Adam to e-mail them all an evaluation form. They will complete them and return them to Harvey.

Joint Partners Workplan. Adam distributed the Joint Partners Workplan for 2004. He noted that all items had been approved in our own Workplan. The Executive Board will review and bring back any comments.

Bristol and Salisbury Solid Waste Management Plans: Adam noted that staff had reviewed the solid waste plans for the Towns of Bristol and Salisbury and generally found that they conformed to the regional plan, so long as they coordinate with the solid waste district on certain items they propose to bring to the solid waste district. The Board instructed Adam to speak with the solid waste district to make sure they were aware of our request to the towns.

Proposal for Access Management Study on Route 7. Adam noted that he had included a letter of intent to apply for a grant from Vtrans to perform an access management study on Route 7. He noted that he would propose to study Route 7 north of Middlebury in partnership with the Vermont Greenbelt Alliance. He also suggested that we invite Kate Lampton, the Executive Director of the Alliance to the next Full Commission meeting so that the commission could meet her and learn about her group's mission. The Executive Board agreed that this was a timely issue and one that we should have an open discussion about. Karl moved that we pursue the application and invite Kate Lampton to speak at our next meeting. Thea seconded the motion, which passed with three in favor and two abstentions. Karl also suggested that we invite Bill Roper of the Orton Institute to the discussion. All agreed.

Member's Concerns/Information

Harvey offered to host a barbeque at his house at 6 p.m. for the next Board meeting. All accepted. Adam will send directions to all before the meeting.

Harvey thanked the board for the generous gift. He was surprised by it and suggested that the Executive Board create a consistent policy about gifts so that it benefits the commission.

ADJOURNMENT: Thea moved to adjourn and Ellen seconded a motion to adjourn, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam G. Lougee