

DRAFT

**ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

May 27, 2004

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

ROLL CALL

<i>Cornwall</i>	Don Shall, chair
<i>Middlebury</i>	Karl Neuse
<i>Monkton</i>	Thea Gaudette
<i>New Haven</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Orwell</i>	Andrea Ochs
<i>Waltham</i>	Tom Yager
<i>Whiting</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

BUSINESS MEETING:

The Executive Board convened its regular meeting at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Executive Board reviewed the minutes of their last meeting. Thea Gaudette moved to approve the minutes. Ellen seconded the motion. All approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The board reviewed the treasurer's report. Adam noted that receivables were significant, inflated in large part by the Project Impact money for the Ripton Fire Station. Andrea moved to accept the report, Ellen seconded and all approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Local Government Committee: No Activity.

ACT250/248: Adam reported that one new application had been received for a gravel Pit for Freedom Acres in Starksboro. Adam noted that a hearing is set for June 9th at 10a.m. in Starksboro at the clerk's office. Adam also noted that the Town of Middlebury had received its permit for the Communications tower on Chipman Hill and that the National

Bank of Middlebury had received its permit for the branch it plans to build in the old Ames Plaza.

Economic Development: Don noted the plan amendment passed at the last meeting. He also noted that he expected that the Committee would collect its surveys and choose a topic to concentrate on next month.

Natural Resources: Harvey noted that the committee had created a proposed policy on tire burning at the International Paper plant and that it is slated for later in the meeting agenda.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Adam reported that the TAC was meeting in Vergennes this evening. They are electing officers and discussing decision analysis software.

Utilities and Facilities: Ellen reported that the committee had met concerning the education section of the plan and went over goals and policies.

OLD BUSINESS

VAPDA minutes: Adam distributed the VAPDA minutes for review. Karl asked about the money to RPCs for Chapter 117. Adam noted that each RPC would be collecting extra money for educational efforts of town planning commissions. Karl suggested that rather than going to each town, it might be a more efficient use of the money to conduct 4-5 sub-regional meetings.

VELCO Summary: Adam gave a summary of where we are in the VELCO process. He noted that we are currently working on the “Reroute” portion of the application. When VELCO requested to reroute the line around Waltham and Vergennes and into Ferrisburgh and to make some other reroutes in Ferrisburgh, Charlotte and Shelburne, the Public Service Board required it to re-conduct full evidentiary hearings for those people newly affected by the re-route. Since the reroute affects the northern portion of the county, we will participate, but not as broadly as we did in the original filing. Adam also noted that it was his plan to generally support the Re-Route, since it had less impact on the county as a whole, provided that VELCO paid attention to aesthetics within the re-route corridor. Adam shared ACRPC’s reroute testimony with the E-board and invited questions.

Adam also noted that the rebuttal phase of the full hearings would re-commence shortly after the re-route hearings, with testimony due in July. Adam noted that between now and then, he would be working toward aesthetic mitigation along all portions of the line with VELCO. Adam explained this is being done as a settlement process, and that ACRPC has not relinquished its concerns about the need for the 345kV portion of the line. In fact, Adam informed the Executive Board that he would like to allocate a portion of the money the commission had allocated to participating in this process toward supporting paying for two experts. The first would be an electrical engineer to evaluate

the necessity of the 345 kV line and alternatives for it. The second would be an expert in demand side management and energy efficiency and explore what measures could be implemented. Adam requested the permission of the Executive Board to take that action. After a brief discussion of the December 12, 2004 Resolution of the Full Commission, the Executive Board concluded that helping to support expert testimony regarding the necessity of the 345kV portion of the line and the use of DSM was within the scope of activity authorized by the resolution and approved Adam's request.

Lake Champlain Byways: Adam gave a summary of the limited activity taking place on the byway. Her noted that the Governor had selected a Quadra-Centennial Commission to oversee the planning for the 2009 event. Adam noted that the Lake Champlain Byways Partnership did not have its Strategic Plan completed to give to the commission. He noted that the group had resolved to complete the plan by the Quad Commission's September meeting, but still needed to resolve the most recent differences that had arisen with New York as a result of several communications by the Commissioner of the Department of Tourism and Marketing. Adam noted that he supports the projects the group is trying to accomplish, but that it constitutes a very trying and frustrating process.

Other: Thea announced that the CEDS steering committee met yesterday. EDA has accepted the CEDS as to form and she expects an approval from EDA on the entire plan sometime this fall. The CEDS also approved an additional study on value added wood products. Lastly the CEDS reaffirmed its structure and guiding principles. Karl moved that the Economic Development Corporation continue as the administrator of the CEDS program. Andrea seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the motion passed unanimously. Harvey suggested that when our economic development committee chooses a topic to work on we share the scope of the activity with Economic Development Corporation and instructed Adam to speak with Jamie and let him know what our committee is working on.

NEW BUSINESS

Northwest Vermont Access Management Proposal: Adam noted that he had received an e-mail from Gina Campoli that VTrans expected that this study would move forward and they would issue contracts later this month.

International Paper Test Burn: Adam handed the policy that the natural resources committee has created. Harvey explained that the Committee wanted to have the policy endorsed by the Executive Board so we have it available on record when the burn goes in the fall. Karl moved to pass the proposal, Thea seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the Executive Board endorsed the policy and asked Adam to forward this to the next Full Commission meeting.

Other New Business: No items

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Submitted by: Adam Lougee