

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
January 30, 2008

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

ROLL CALL

Bristol Bill Sayre
Goshen Bruce Webster
Middlebury
Monkton Thea Gaudette
Orwell
Starksboro
Vergennes Renny Perry

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

BUSINESS MEETING:

The Executive Board convened its regular meeting at 6:50 p.m. with the Secretary, Thea Gaudette presiding.

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of the last meeting. **Renny moved approval. Bruce seconded the motion. All approved the minutes.**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Adam distributed ACRPC's financial information. Adam noted the Commission remains in strong financial shape. **Bruce moved the Treasurer's report, Renny seconded the motion and all approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Brownfield's Committee: Renny reported that the committee had not met. It continues to work on the project it has, namely the Shade Roller factory in Vergennes. Adam reported that he hoped to have a good recommendation from the Elks, the owners of the Silver Tower's Camp, where we just completed a major project, which could help ACRPC to market the program and generate landowner interest.

Local Government Committee: Thea reported that the Local Government Committee met in Middlebury on January 14th. It will bring its recommendation to approve the Middlebury Plan to the full commission at the next meeting. Thea also noted that Orwell and Monkton have requested regional review and will have review meetings February 19th and 20th. Lastly, she noted that Bristol had applied for regional approval. Thea stated that this may present some difficult issues, as in 2002, the last time ACRPC approved Bristol's plan, it told Bristol that it would not review the plan again without it being updated. Bill noted that Bristol is working to update the plan, but that it is progressing slowly, putting Bristol off-cycle for funding it needs to complete other work. He noted that Bristol will present its case and be prepared for some difficult questions.

ACT 250/248: Adam reported that Act 250 applications continued to be slow. The only new application was from Terrance Thomas for a 15 lot housing development in Bristol off of Harvey Road.

Energy Committee: The Energy Committee met in January and will meet again on Friday February 1st. Adam noted that the group continues to be active in a number of projects and had recently sent a report to the Town's for inclusion in the Town Reports on its work, specifically focusing on Town Energy Coordinators. He noted planning for the Energy Expo on March 1st is proceeding well and he believes it should be a great local event. He also noted that he will be attending an award ceremony on February 4th where ACRPC and Bridport will be receiving a Community Development Planning Grant to conduct a market study to determine the feasibility of a biomass plant in the region.

Natural Resources: The committee met and is beginning its work on the agricultural section of the natural resource section of the plan.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Adam noted the TAC will meet in February to re-evaluate regional transportation priorities. He also noted that he had recently attended a hearing in Middlebury regarding the runway extension for the Middlebury Airport.

OLD BUSINESS

VAPDA Minutes: Adam distributed the minutes to the board and took comments.

Strategic Plan Discussion: The Board decided to table this item until Fred Dunnington, the chair could be present.

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Mid-year Report to DHCA: Adam presented the Board with the mid-year report he had sent to DHCA noting ACRPC's accomplishments on its work plan to date.

Report to Towns for Annual Report: Adam also presented the Board with the Annual report from last year that he had sent to each Town for inclusion in the Town Annual report.

Regional Plan Future Land Use Section: At the first hearing on the proposed updates to the Regional Plan, the Commission discussed the Future Land Use Section of the Plan and instructed Adam to ask Kevin to create a map and for the Executive Board to create accompanying text depicting and describing State “Designated Downtown Districts”, proposed “Growth Centers” and “Village Centers”. Adam distributed the map Kevin had created and text he had created to the Executive Board and requested that they approve the proposed changes so he could bring them to the Full Commission and the public for the next Public Hearing at the March Full Commission Meeting. The Executive Board review the map and text and, upon a motion made and duly seconded, voted unanimously to authorize Adam to bring the proposed changes to the Future Land Use Section of the plan to the next Plan Hearing at the March Full Commission Meeting.

Planner Position Update: Adam noted that he had not found the right person to fill the planner position vacated when Jeff decided to return to school and that he was struggling a little with the applications received to date. He felt he may need to re-open the search.

Lake Champlain Wetland Restoration Plan: Adam presented a proposal from the Agency of Natural Resources to present the Wetlands Study that it had recently completed looking at restoring wetlands in the Lake Champlain Basin and potential impacts on Lake Champlain Water quality. As the Otter Creek Basin is one of two major areas the study focused on, Adam felt it would be important for the Commission to be informed of and understand the Agency’s Plan and its potential benefits to and impacts on the region, particularly as it related to the agricultural community. The Executive Board approved the presentation for the April Meeting.

Other: Fred joined the meeting late and noted that he will not be able to attend the February Full Commission Meeting because of another conflicting meeting he needs to run for the Town of Middlebury. He noted that Elissa is still suffering from health concerns stemming from her knee surgery and that Thea is the next officer in line. Thea agreed to run the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam Lougee