

DRAFT

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING September 23, 2009

BUSINESS MEETING:

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Executive Board held its monthly meeting at the regional planning commission's office in Middlebury with the Chair, Thea Gaudette presiding. Thea began the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL

New Haven Harvey Smith
Ferrisburgh Bob McNary
Goshen
Lincoln
Monkton Thea Gaudette
Ripton
Whiting Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

Minutes:

Bob moved the minutes of the August 26, 2009 meeting, Ellen seconded them, all approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Bob moved the Treasurer's report, Ellen seconded the motion. Adam explained that we had a positive fund balance so far this year. He also noted the audit should be completed shortly and that he does not expect any adverse findings. All approved the treasurer's report.

Committee Reports:

Act 250: Adam noted that we had not received any new projects or approvals since the last full commission meeting.

Brownfields: Jeremy noted that the Committee had not met. He noted that the second part of the phase II investigation on the Shade Roller Mill in Vergennes began and we expect a report soon. Adam noted that he had had a teleconference with Matt Becker and Adam Foreman, our consultant last week and that he expected to receive a proposal for a final phase of study activity shortly. The Committee will meet to review that report.

Energy: Bob gave the energy report. The program for tomorrow concerns the supply of woody biomass for firewood within the region. The regular meeting will be October 2nd. The Energy Committee continues to look at a broad variety of projects.

Local Government: Thea noted the Local Government Committee had nothing to report, but expected to be busy later this summer and into the fall.

Natural Resources: The committee continues to work on updating the plan.

Transportation: Addison County projects Panton Rd/ Rt 22A study; Sue Clark reported on Champlain Bridge construction start 4-5 years. The Committee met last month and approved several town and regional proposed studies for implementation in the current year.

Strategic planning: The committee has organized a meeting for October 6, 2009 at 7:30 a.m.

OLD BUSINESS

EECBG ("Energy") Funding: Adam noted that we were successful in our appeal on behalf of Addison County and had secured an additional \$153,000 of funding for the region. We will need to honor our agreement with the side judges that authorized us to represent them, but should have a fair amount of money left over to undertake other projects. Elizabeth and Adam will be working with the Energy Committee to put together the grant application for those funds.

Project Status:

- Department of Health Workshops- Adam noted that VEM and the Department of Health had subcontracted with the RPC's to help them do public outreach meetings regarding the H1N1 flu. Tim was coordinating these for Addison Bennington and Rutland.
- CDBG Bridport Biomass Feasibility Study- Adam noted that this grant will be completed at the end of the month and that he expected a good product. While the conclusions are not as strong as he would have liked to have seen, they are honest and the report contains a lot of good data about the region that will be usable by a lot of people including the Town of Middlebury and the college for their proposals.

Other: Adam noted that last December at the Executive Board meeting we had discussed and adopted a resolution to allow employees to use pre-tax money they put aside in a Flexible Spending Account for non-prescription medications. This expands the benefit to the employees, but since it is funded with their own money, it costs the commission nothing. All remembered the discussion and the resolution. Harvey moved that this was adopted but not recorded and reaffirmed the action taken last December to expand the

FSA program to non-prescription drug purchases. Bob seconded the motion. All approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Recruitment: Adam handed out the roll call and noted some holes in it. He asked the board to think about people that they knew from towns without delegates or alternates and bring them to the next meeting. He also noted he would ask the same thing of the Strategic planning Committee.

Staffing: Adam noted that with the new energy work, Elizabeth will not have as much time for other things. He requested permission to hire another staff member. The board authorized him to do so, but emphasized that the position was temporary and would only last while we had the funds to support it.

Other: Bob moved to add Larry Keyes to the Energy Committee. Ellen seconded the motion, all approved.

Bob mentioned that he saw that the unemployment taxes could go up soon and asked how that would impact the commission. A brief discussion followed in which the Board concluded it would have a small impact, but they could do nothing about it.

ADJOURNMENT: Ellen moved to adjourn. Harvey seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam Lougee