

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
June 23, 2010

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 6:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

New Haven
Middlebury Fred Dunnington
Goshen
Lincoln Steve Revell
Monkton Thea Gaudette
Ripton Jeremy Grip
Whiting Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

Minutes:

Ellen moved the April 28 meeting minutes. Steve Revell seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Thea, Ellen, Steve and Jeremy voted to approve the minutes, Fred abstained from the vote.

Ellen moved the May 18, 2010 minutes. Steve seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, in which some minor corrections were made and approved by the maker of the motion and the member seconding the motion, Thea, Ellen, Steve and Jeremy voted to approve the minutes as corrected, Fred abstained from the vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Adam gave the Treasurer's Report. ACRPC's financial position remains very strong. Ellen moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Fred seconded the motion. All approved the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Committee Reports:

Act 250: Ellen reported there has been no significant activity since the last full commission meeting.

Brownfields: Jeremy reported the committee had not met and that we were awaiting reports from the two sites currently under investigation before the meeting.

Energy: Adam noted that the Energy Committee would meet on July 7, 2010. The major item on the agenda for that meeting will be a review of the Cross Pollination Solar Farm.

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

Transportation Advisory Committee: Thea noted that the TAC did not meet last month.

Strategic Planning: Fred reported that the Committee had met the previous week on June 15th and believes it is winding down its work. It completed the marketing plan, received the results of the Town Selectboard visits to date, noted staff is following up on all visits and will give a brief report of its work at the July Full Commission meeting.

Local Government: Thea noted the Local Government Committee will be busy this summer visiting at least Lincoln and Whiting shortly.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Vermont Gas Systems Presentation. The Executive Board had a brief discussion following up on the Vermont Gas System presentation. Generally they were happy with the presentation and instructed Adam to let Vermont Gas Systems know that ACRPC is interested in any potential expansion plans Vermont Gas Systems creates and would like to serve as a forum for Vermont Gas Systems to present information to the community and receive information from the region's citizens.
2. Challenges for Change Update. Adam gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the Challenges for Change legislation and explaining the direction of the process this summer and into the legislative session. He noted that over the summer, the Executive Directors of the RPCs will be working together to develop metrics to demonstrate each organizations accomplishments to the administration, legislature and the public.
3. Committee Assignments and appointment of delegates. Adam noted that he will send out a package to all delegates outlining the existing committees, the charge of each committee and requesting that each delegate elect to serve on at least one committee prior to the July meeting. Thea requested that we include a cover letter explaining the processes by which ACRPC and its committee system functions to new delegates and delegates with less than two years of membership on the Commission.
4. Other: Adam noted that he, Claire and Kevin had lunch with James Maroney, the Delegate from Leicester, the previous week to discuss the information he had supplied to the commission on dairy agriculture. Adam noted that we had productive meeting and had created the following outline for a Program in September: A panel discussion on how to make the Addison County dairy industry profitable and sustainable (clean). The conversation will be how best to achieve

those goals. One of the things we will focus on is using clean and clear funding to support dairy conversion to organic. Could The State of Vermont create (fund) an alternative organic coop under it's "seal of quality" helping those farmers willing to do so to switch production methods? What are the costs/benefits of doing so? Does a market exist and could this Coop compete? Is this something the State or Addison County should pursue?

Harvey noted that the Secretary of Agriculture, Roger Albee, had agreed to attend the meeting and to serve on the panel. Adam noted he would continue to look locally to create an interesting and objective panel.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Forestry Stewardship Planning, Telecom Planning and HUD Sustainable Communities Grants. Adam noted that ACRPC had applied for and/or was investigating applying for several new grants to continue to support its planning work for the region. The first he noted was a Landscape scale or regional forestry plan. That grant, for \$25,000, would allow ACRPC to use the Current Use data it had collected to look across individual property boundaries at forest parcels and create a forestry plan on the landscape scale. Telecom Planning. Adam also noted that VAPDA was considering working with VCGI to craft a grant application to evaluate telecom need in any given community and aggregate users to create more benefits for providers to expand their systems to serve communities. Adam noted that while he had some concerns regarding the usefulness of the data ACRPC could produce, he expected to join with the other RPC's in VAPDA to create a statewide plan. Lastly, Adam noted that the NOFA for a nationally competitive HUD livable communities grant is due shortly. ACRPC is investigating partnering with some or all of the other RPCs to create an application to perform that work.
2. New Planner. Adam noted that he planned to hire a new planner. He shared the job description and position advertisement that he had created with the Executive Board. The Board wanted to be respectful of the Executive Directors authority to hire, but also expressed an interest in being more involved in the hiring process. They also suggested that it may be hard to find a candidate with all the criteria listed in the job description and that perhaps the website and database work might be better subcontracted to a firm specializing in that type of work, rather than asking a planner to take it on. Adam noted that he would keep this suggestion in mind and would keep the Executive Board up to date on the hiring process.
3. Annual Review of Executive Director. The hour being late, the Executive Board postponed this item of business. They requested that Adam send an evaluation and data package to the incoming members of the Executive Board, Bill and Andrew and complete and send a self-evaluation to the entire Executive Board prior to the next meeting.

4. Other. None.

ADJOURNMENT: Steve moved to adjourn. Jeremy seconded the motion. All approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Adam Lougee