

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

September 22, 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 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

<i>Bridport</i>	Andrew Manning
<i>Bristol</i>	Bill Sayre
<i>Lincoln</i>	Steve Revell
<i>Monkton</i>	Thea Gaudette
<i>New Haven</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Ripton</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Whiting</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF

Kevin Behm, Assistant Director

Minutes:

Harvey moved to accept the August minutes. Ellen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer's report was reviewed by the Board. Ellen moved to accept the report. Steve seconded the motion, which all approved.

Committee Reports:

Local Government Committee: Thea noted that the Committee recently held a hearing in the Town of Addison. The Committee is recommending approval of the plan. Thea also noted that the required Early Childhood Education discussion was very limited and the Committee suggests that section be updated in the next plan revision. Harvey noted that the Early Childhood provision was a recent requirement and many towns haven't approached the issue in a complete manner on the first try. Thea stated that the Addison board was very thorough in reviewing ACRPC staff comments and they are ready to begin revising their zoning bylaws.

ACT250/248: Ellen noted that she had not received any notices of Act 250 activity. Steve recalled an Act 248 hearing notice for the Cross Pollination solar project in New Haven. Harvey said the hearing was on the 28th.

Brownfields: No meeting.

Natural Resources: Kevin stated that the committee is currently reviewing the entire section. A presentation on the draft agricultural section of the Otter Creek Basin Plan will be held at the next meeting. The Committee will be comparing the policies of the two documents.

Energy: Harvey stated that Adam had asked himself and Jeremy (co-chairs) to set a new meeting time. Jeremy stated that the 2nd Monday at 7:00 seems to work. Harvey mentioned that he and Jeremy may want to meet with Adam to strategize before the next meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Thea and Andrew discussed the recent meeting where municipal grant projects were reviewed. Three bike/ped/safety projects were granted funding in Lincoln, Starksboro and Bristol.

OLD BUSINESS

Challenges for Change update: The draft minutes from the joint Addison County Economic Development Corporation (ACEDC) and Addison County Regional Planning Commission (ACRPC) were available for review. The Board members reviewed the minutes and discussed the meeting. No changes were offered. They all felt the meeting was well attended and productive. They reiterated their opinion that any efforts by the State to merge Addison County with either Chittenden or Rutland Counties would be counter-productive for economic development. They felt development resources would be directed toward the urban centers of Burlington or Rutland and away from the more rural Addison County. Harvey motioned to accept the minutes of the joint meeting. Jeremy seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Kevin noted that the Board packet also contained a draft MOU between ACRPC and ACEDC documenting the extent of their cooperation and collaboration. This agreement had been discussed at the joint meeting. After discussion, the Board suggested that a separate bullet item for Agriculture/Silva culture be added. The other bulleted collaboration topics pertained to natural resource based economic development, but the Board wanted to highlight the two organizations' cooperation an agricultural and forestry issues.

Committee Assignments: The Board made several late committee appointments for members submitting their requests.

Ralph Teitschied – Natural Resources

Richard Warren – Energy

Pat Peters – Local Government

Fred Dunnington- VT Downtown Rep, ACEDC Rep

New Planner: A position has not been offered to any of the candidates yet. A new candidate will be interviewed by staff this week.

NEW BUSINESS

Follow-up on Ag Forum: Thea began discussion of the recent Ag Forum by stating that she thought it was successful, but that a series of similar forums need to happen on an ongoing basis. Harvey felt it is also important to inform every one of the current agricultural issues and existing programs and initiatives. Ellen was interested in specific initiatives such as Farm-to-School and Farm-to-Plate. The Board generally agreed to host a series of forums/meetings concerning dairy agriculture but first there needed to be an assessment of the current activities and the best role for regional planning. An Education and Outreach grant (\$7,500) from the Lake Champlain Basin Program would be applied for to help with the program costs. Staff was directed to develop a plan for this initiative and report back to the next E-Board meeting.

Other New Business: Bi-State Park. The Board reviewed the resolution supporting the Bi-State Park and did not make a commitment at this time. While generally in agreement with the idea of marketing the cluster of parks around the new Champlain Bridge as a single destination, the Board felt the actual plan was still too vague. Kevin suggested the language of the resolution could be changed to reflect the Board's discussion. The Board decided to wait until the Commission has had a chance to discuss the proposal.

ADJOURNMENT: Steve moved to adjourn. Ellen seconded. All approved at 8:30.

Submitted by: Kevin Behm