

DRAFT

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

December 28, 2011

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, Harvey Smith, presiding. Harvey began the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Bridport

Bristol

Lincoln

Middlebury Fred Dunnington

New Haven Harvey Smith

Ripton Jeremy Grip

Whiting Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

Minutes:

Ellen moved to accept the November minutes. Jeremy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report. Adam noted that ACRPC's balances remain strong, but substantially lower than he liked to see them. He also noted that receivables are good and that he expects to bill another approximately \$100,000 within the next two weeks, which should move our balances back to normal. **Ellen moved to accept the report. Jeremy seconded the motion, which all approved.**

Committee Reports:

Local Government Committee: Adam noted that the Committee would hold hearings in Starksboro on January 5th and Weybridge on January 10th.

ACT250/248: Ellen reported that the only significant activity since the full commission meeting December 14th was that the District 9 Environmental commission had granted a permit to Martin and Carol Kulczyk of Ripton to build 10 vacation cottages on their property in Ripton.

Brownfields: Jeremy reported that the committee had not met and that the work will be completed shortly. The only active project is in Whiting where ACRPC is trying to get Whiting into the petroleum cleanup fund to complete the cleanup of the underground storage tanks removed from the property.

Natural Resources: The Committee will hold its follow-up meeting in January.

Energy: Jeremy reported the committee had not met since the last full commission meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: No Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Audit: Adam distributed a complete copy of the audit that the full commission had reviewed and approved at the December meeting. He noted that it was a “clean” audit and that ACRPC had not received any adverse findings.

Natural Resources Plan Adoption Follow-up: Adam thanked the Executive Board for their help recruiting directors for the December meeting. Harvey noted it was great to see a full house in December and we should offer content to keep it up. Adam noted that he would distribute the “new” complete plans to commissioners at the January meeting and get them out to the municipalities shortly. Since we are re-adopting the entire plan Adam felt that we should give “new” copies to everyone. Kevin is working on some formatting issues and then we will get them printed and out.

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Officials Liability Insurance: Adam noted that Steve Kellogg, ACRPC’s local insurance representative, had approached him just before Christmas and given him the bad news that our current insurer had chosen not to renew our insurance. Steve had found a new carrier, but the cost is nearly 5 times higher, with the premium rising from \$1,600 for the year to \$7,400 for the year for the same coverage. Steve explained that we had one potential claim we had reported. Even though nothing had materialized or been paid to date, that claim was enough for the carrier to drop us. He also noted that a lot of carriers had had claims on this type of insurance due to the recession and all were being very cautious. Adam provided the E Board with some alternatives, lesser coverage, a tail (no coverage going forward) etc. but recommended that we take the policy Steve has found, bind it for the first of the year and then try to find an alternative lower policy. **The E Board agreed and encouraged Adam to bind the existing coverage, but then shop around when he gets the chance.**

Other: Adam noted that he had been approached by attorney’s fro Pratt’s store on Route 125 in Bridport requesting that the regional planning commission support a small

alteration of a conservation easement on a neighboring farm to allow the store to access the land for a wastewater system. Adam noted that after discussing the situation, he felt supporting the alteration constituted a reasonable amendment to the conservation easement. Pratt's store is an institution in Bridport and has no other location. The location chosen is outside of the main field, is relatively small and was the least invasive means to provide an acceptable remedy. Harvey noted that he had also been approached on this issue as a legislator and concurred in this approach. He wanted to make sure we brought the question before the full executive Board so all could comment. **The Board supported amending the conservation easement to allow the wastewater system.** It concurred that the easements needed to be interpreted reasonably, that in some towns in the region nearly 20% of the land was covered by easements and we would run into this again. As long as the landowners agree and the proposed change is designed to minimize the impact, the Board felt flexibility to accommodate uses was a good policy.

ADJOURNMENT

Jeremy moved to adjourn. Fred seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Adam Lougee