

DRAFT

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2012

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 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Bridport

Bristol

Lincoln Steve Revell

Middlebury Fred Dunnington

New Haven Harvey Smith

Ripton Jeremy Grip

Whiting Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

Minutes:

**Fred Dunnington moved to accept the December minutes (No meeting in January).
Jeremy Grip seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report:

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report. Adam noted that ACRPC's balances remain strong, that receivables are good. He noted that revenues and expenses are nearly even and that he intends to keep working on that fact. Adam also noted that he intends to present a proposed budget amendment at the February full commission meeting reflecting some of the changes over the course of the year. **Steve moved to accept the report. Ellen seconded the motion, which all approved.**

Committee Reports:

Local Government Committee: Adam noted that the next meeting is in Weybridge on March 13, 2012.

ACT250/248: Ellen reported on Act 250 applications as follows:

New Applications: None.

Approvals or Denials: On February 16, 2012 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued a Land Use Permit to the Marbleworks Partnership in Middlebury to allow it to demolish and existing structure at 259 Maple Street in Middlebury (former video store).

Brownfields: Jeremy is working to schedule a final meeting of the committee.

Natural Resources: The Committee met shortly before the last full commission meeting and has not met since. They will meet again on [REDACTED].

Energy: The energy Committee meets tomorrow evening. They will review the commission's progress on its existing grants and propose two new initiatives.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC did not meet in February.

OLD BUSINESS

Addison County Regional Plan Adoption Follow-up: Adam noted that ACRPC's plan has been distributed to all towns, the state, all neighboring RPC's and commissioners that have attended meetings. The Plan will officially become effective March 6, 2012 after the 35 day waiting period in which a majority of Towns in the region have the ability to vote against it.

Public Officials Liability Insurance Follow-up: Adam reported earlier in the year that ACRPC's public liability insurance had skyrocketed this year. He also noted he would try to find a replacement policy. Adam reported that he had not had a lot of luck finding a new less expensive policy. Apparently, claims against this type of policy are way up and the insurers are being very cautious. Adam will keep trying, but this may be a relatively large unforeseen expense (\$6,000).

Mission Statement: Adam handed out the mission statement he had given to the full commission at the last meeting. He noted that he would ask every one for their opinion at the next meeting. His was a suggestion, which he felt worked better than the existing statement, but he is looking for ideas.

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Plan to Analyze Vermont Gas Expansion Proposal: Adam reminded the Board that at its last meeting, the full commission had requested that the Executive Board work with Staff to create a plan to evaluate the Vermont Gas pipeline proposed to serve Addison County. The Executive Board agreed on some broad principles:

1. ACRPC should perform a broad based analysis of the proposed project, using the areas of interest of its committees and partners to help evaluate the information provided.
2. ACRPC's investigation should start with and be supported by the goals and policies of ACRPC's regional plan.

3. ACRPC should work to be a resource to its member towns, help represent them where they support mutual interests, promote open dialogs and public information sharing, including all information it develops.
4. Committees working on the project will tentatively include:
 - Addison County Emergency Planning Committee - safety (Tim)
 - Natural Resources - Air and water pollution (including understanding more about fracking), wildlife and threatened plant communities (Kevin B)
 - Addison County Economic Development/ Energy – Cost Benefits of Gas for region/ Renewable natural gas – (Kevin L/Robin S)
 - Act 250 – Orderly Development of the Region (Regional Plan) (Adam)

The Board instructed Adam to take this outline to staff and to begin to flesh it out.

Transportation Planner: Adam noted that when he put this on the agenda, he hoped to be able to name a candidate. Unfortunately, his last interview was postponed until tomorrow, so he will bring more information after that meeting. Adam stated he believed he had an excellent candidate, which he shared with the Executive Board and hoped he would fill the position shortly.

Nominating Committee: Adam noted that the commission would need to elect a nominating committee at its March meeting. He also noted that the current board all had the ability to remain on the board if they desired to do so. The Executive Board discussed thoughts for the nominating committee and Harvey agreed to make some discreet inquiries to see if people would be willing to serve prior to the next full commission meeting.

Annual Meeting (Program and Location): Adam asked the Executive Board to help him with some ideas regarding locations and speakers for this year's Annual meeting. The Executive Board came up with several ideas for programs/speakers including:

- Tony Clark speaking about the Moosalamoo and Recreation trails in Goshen
- Sue Minter speaking about accelerated bridge construction and focusing on the Sand Hill Bridge
- A Champlain Bridge Tour in Addison
- Robin Scheu discussing local value added food/beverage production paired with tastings from local companies.

Harvey asked Adam to put these choices and others he thinks of out to the full commission at the next meeting. Steve also reminded Adam that we need to ask for nominations for the Bertha Hanson award.

Other: Harvey praised Robin Scheu and the work she had been doing promoting the beverage industry developing in Addison County.

Ellen noted that Whiting had an item on the ballot proposing to send any excess road budget surplus Whiting had in its last fiscal year to other towns that were hard hit by Irene.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve moved to adjourn. Ellen seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Adam Lougee