

FINAL

**ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

February 27, 2013

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 Andrew Manning
Bristol Bill Sayre
Lincoln Steve Revell
Middlebury Fred Dunnington
New Haven Harvey Smith
Ripton
Whiting

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

Harvey opened the meeting at 6:35.

Minutes:

Fred Dunnington moved to accept the January minutes. Steve Revell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report. Adam noted that ACRPC's balances remain strong and that receivables are good. He noted that revenues are slightly ahead of expenses, as they should be at this time of the year. Adam noted he would discuss the budget in total later in the agenda. **Steve Revell moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Andrew Manning seconded the motion, which all approved.**

Committee Reports:

Local Government Committee: No Meeting.

ACT250/248: Adam reported that no new application had come into the commission since the last full commission meeting. He did, however, note that the district commission had granted one administrative amendment allowing Pike industries to change their fuel source to Natural Gas.

Natural Resources: The natural resource committee met February 12, just before the full commission meeting and has not met since.

Energy: The Energy Committee held a public meeting kicking off the 2013 Home Energy Challenge, an initiative where towns compete to create efficiency improvements to 3% of the housing stock within each town.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met last Wednesday. Their agenda included a discussion with Representative Lanpher concerning funding for the Transportation budget, and determining the TAC's priorities for state financed projects within the Addison Region for next fiscal year.

OLD BUSINESS

Vermont Gas Update: Adam summarized the current status of this application. He noted that the Board held a pre-hearing conference on 30th. That conference set the schedule of the proceeding before the PSB for the coming year. Adam distributed a Motion to Intervene he filed on behalf of ACRPC. The intervention encompasses the topics covered in the Committee reports and the motions adopted by the Commission at its December meeting. Adam also noted that Vermont Gas had been working with the Town of Monkton to reroute the line and Vermont Gas will file a rerouted line location with the Public Service Board tomorrow. The public hearing is scheduled for March 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the auditorium at Champlain Valley Union High School in Hinesburg.

WhistlePig, LLC Update. WhistlePig, LLC currently bottles and stores whiskey on a 450 acre farm in Shoreham. They had filed for a jurisdictional opinion to exempt a proposed distillery, rye growing and storage operation from Act 250 under the Agricultural exemption. The District Commission issued a Jurisdictional Opinion taking jurisdiction over both the current and proposed operation. The fact that the District Commission took jurisdiction was not surprising. However, the opinion was partially based upon the impact of adding water to agricultural crops and the finding that anything with >50% water by volume could not be considered principally produced on the farm in order to qualify for the agricultural exemption. The Board supported the position that water should not be calculated into the production equation on either side of the argument. Therefore, adding 51% water to something would not make it an agricultural product produced on a farm even if all the water came from a spring on the farm. Conversely, adding water to an agricultural product produced on the farm to make a juice or tea or beer, would not preclude it from being an agricultural product principally produced on the farm.

The Board also discussed value added agriculture in general. All agreed it constitutes one of the most significant issues facing Addison County. The Regional Plan strongly encourages value added agriculture and the reuse of existing farm structures to preserve the Region's productive working landscape. The issue of what constitutes value added agriculture and how it is promoted or regulated is a discussion the board wants ACRPC to be involved with. The Board also encouraged Adam to file comments on the merits of the Whistlepig case concerning its conformance with the Addison County Regional Plan.

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Review: Adam reminded the Board that this year the commission passed a budget with several projected grant sources in it that the commission had not secured. Several of those assumptions have not proved true, as we were not awarded the grant anticipated. However, ACRPC has secured several other grants that the budget did not anticipate. Adam brought the Executive Board a spread sheet of the current budget, amended to include the changes noted above. Adam reviewed the new contracts and expenses with the Executive Board. He concluded that he believes the commission still needs to find about \$20,000 of new revenue prior to the end of this fiscal year in order to balance its budget for the year. Adam noted that he had several potential sources in the works, including Neighborworks of Western Vermont and Efficiency Vermont. He will keep pursuing this additional revenue from these and other sources. In the meantime, he offered to answer any questions and requested to take the revised budget to the full commission at its next meeting. The Board encouraged Adam to keep looking for new funding sources and encouraged him to bring the budget discussion to the full Commission at its next meeting.

Nominating Committee: Adam noted that at the next full Commission meeting the Commission's Bylaws require the Commission to create a nominating committee to oversee the nomination of officers leading the Commission. Generally, an outgoing member of the Executive Board that will not be up for reelection leads the nominating Committee. The Executive Board noted that Ellen and Jeremy will both be leaving the Executive Board after their term ends in June. Harvey will speak with one of them about leading the nominating committee and finding two other members of the commission to serve on the Committee with them.

Annual Meeting (Program and Location): After some discussion of several topics, the Board returned to how one defines value added agriculture and forestry as a theme it would be interested in exploring with a speaker at its annual meeting in May. It will bring that as a suggestion to the full commission at its next meeting.

Other: Adam asked the Board to go into Executive Session to update them on an old personnel matter. Steve moved to go into Executive Session, Bill seconded the motion. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:10. The Board exited the session at 8:15.

Adam requested that the board consider moving the April Executive Board meeting from April 24th to May 1st. He noted that the meeting fell over school vacation week and that he hoped to take a vacation that week. The Board agreed to move the meeting to May 1.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve moved to adjourn. Andrew seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Adam Lougee