

FINAL

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

July 24, 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.

ROLL CALL

Bridport Andrew Manning
Bristol Bill Sayre
Bristol Chico Martin
Lincoln Steve Revell
Middlebury David Hamilton
Monkton Thea Gaudette
New Haven Harvey Smith

STAFF

Adam Lougee, Director

Guests: Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Whiting
Brandy Saxton, Placesense Consulting
Chris Cochran, ACCD

Harvey opened the meeting at 6:30.

Review of ACRPC Plan and DHCD Visit:

Harvey introduced the members of the Executive Board and Ellen Kurrelmeyer from Whiting, a former Executive Board Member, to their guests, Chris Cochran, of the Director of Community Planning and Revitalization in the Department of Housing and Community Development and Brandy Saxton, owner of Placesense, a Planning Consulting firm. Harvey explained that Brandy had been hired by the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies, an umbrella organization for Vermont's regional planning commissions (VAPDA) and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) to review each regional plan within the State of Vermont to determine whether they met statutory requirements and to improve planning in the State. He then turned the meeting over to Brandy to present her review of the Addison Regional Plan.

Brandy outlined the methodology that she used and explained how she had compared regional plans. She noted that some plans performed better in some areas than others and vice versa. She then walked through her assessment of the Addison County Regional Plan. Brandy noted that she liked the ACRPC Plan sections on Transportation, Economic

Development and housing and had given them high grades. She also noted that she did like ACRPC's Land Use Section and Recreational Section and observed that ACRPC had Chosen to leave mandatory out of the plan making its use in the regulatory process weaker than other plans. She also noted that the length of the plan and the fact that it had been drafted by a number of authors inhibited its readability and utility.

The E Board listened, asked questions and posed concerns relatively consistently through the presentation. It wanted Brandy and Chris to understand that ACRPC's Regional Plan represented a fair compromise of a number of competing interests. It also wanted to articulate that the Commission had intentional chosen not to include to mandatory language like "shall" in the plan. Instead, the Commission preferred to work with its municipalities and support their work. Accordingly, the Commission felt that many of the lower scores it had received were based on philosophical differences with the scoring system. The Executive Board thanked Brandy for her presentation and agreed to consider all of her recommendations critically and implement those it felt were in the best interest of the Region.

Minutes:

Thea Gaudette moved to accept the June 26, 2013 minutes. Chico Martin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's report. Adam noted that ACRPC's balances remain strong. Receivables are up as it is the end of the year. We still have some revenue to collect. However, not as much as Adam had predicted in the budget. Accordingly, at the end of June, revenues lag expenses again. Adam now believes that we will end the year with about a \$20,000 loss. It is not where he had hoped to be. However, even without Kevin Lehman on payroll for entire year, expenses came in nearly as predicted, while revenues lagged. This revenue lag was driven largely by a couple of grants that were not awarded on a timely basis. Adam noted the coming year's budget, unlike last year's budget, does not include any revenue that the grants have not already been approved. **Steve Revell moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Chico Martin seconded the motion, which all approved.**

Committee Reports:

Local Government Committee: Thea reported that the Committee met with Cornwall on July 15th and will make a recommendation concerning approving the Cornwall Town Plan at the September Full Commission meeting. The Committee will also meet with Bristol on August 20th and present those findings and recommendations in September.

ACT250/248: Adam gave the following report:

New Applications: None.

Approvals or Denials:

1. On June 12th, 2013 Theodore Palmer filed an application for a construction storage yard on Turkey Lane in Monkton. The District 9 Environmental Commission issued a permit on July 23, 2013.

2. On June 12th, 2013 John Sherry filed an application for a gravel extraction operation on Route 73 in Goshen. The District 9 Environmental Commission issued a permit on July 23, 2013.

Other: None.

Natural Resources: The Committee meets next Tuesday.

Energy: No Meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew reported that the TAC does not meet in July. It will meet in August.

OLD BUSINESS

Vermont Gas Update: Adam summarized the current status of this application. He distributed a draft of conditions he is in the process of negotiating with Vermont Gas as the basis for a Memorandum of Understanding. He noted that the MOU is very nearly complete, but that several issues regarding emergency management are still outstanding. He will continue to negotiate. He noted that the parties need to get the MOU signed by August 14th in time for ACRPC to submit it into evidence with the rebuttal testimony.

Regarding Phase II, Vermont Gas has identified a preliminary Route through Cornwall that honors Cornwall's request for setbacks and other concessions. However, Vermont Gas continues to encounter a lot of opposition to this portion of the proposal.

Committee Assignments and appointments of delegates. Adam noted that he had received committee requests from a bit less than half of the delegates. He will send out another reminder around the first of August and will include a deadline of the Executive Board meeting in August so that the Board can report committee assignments by the September deadline.

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Other: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve moved to adjourn. Thea seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Adam Lougee