

DRAFT

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

August 27, 2014

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.

ROLL CALL

Bridport Andrew Manning
Bristol
Bristol Chico Martin
Middlebury David Hamilton
Middlebury Ted Davis
Monkton Thea Gaudette
Ripton Jeremy Grip

STAFF: Adam Lougee, Director

Thea opened the meeting at 6:45.

MINUTES

Chico Martin moved to approve the minutes. Andrew Manning seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote with all approving, except Ted Davis who abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Adam noted that fund balances are down slightly, but still remain good. As reported last meeting revenues through year end, June 30 remain behind expenses by about \$12,000. This amount improved slightly because of adjustments. Adam then turned to the current fiscal year, where revenues exceed expenses. **Ted Davis moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Chico seconded the motion, which all approved.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Local Government Committee: Thea reported that the Committee met with Addison and Monkton to review their town plans on August 18th and 19th respectively and would be making favorable recommendations to the full commission at the next meeting.

ACT250/248: Adam reported that the Committee met and concluded a proposed MOA for Vermont Gas, which the board will review later in the agenda. Adam noted that the biggest trend of interest that he had seen this summer concerns the number of solar farms being proposed for

towns within the Region. Adam shared New Haven's concerns about siting and tax revenue with the Board. Jeremy noted that the energy committee had also discussed this issue.

Natural Resources: The Committee has not met since the last full commission meeting.

Energy: Jeremy reported the committee will meet July 31st. It discussed Vermont Gas, the solar farms in the region and the potential lack of revenue to the towns because of the new tax structure to encourage solar production. Jeremy also noted the Energy Committee would host a presentation by NeighborWorks and Sun Common on September 11th at 6:30.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew reported that the TAC met last week. Its primary item of business was to review the Application Vergennes submitted for planning funds to do a "complete Streets" study of the Route 22A corridor. The TAC awarded Vergennes \$25,000. It is also looking for advice on funding culvert studies. The TAC also re-elected Will Sipsey as Chair and Jeff Nelson as Vice Chair.

Plan Re-write. Chico noted this committee did not meet in August.

OLD BUSINESS

Vermont Gas Update: Adam presented the Executive Board with a proposed MOA that the Act 250/248 Committee had created. He explained that it was a consensus document and therefore included a number of compromises in it. He walked the Board through the provisions of the agreement. After discussion, Chico moved that Adam send the MOA to Vermont Gas for their consideration and that Adam pursue presenting an MOA with Vermont Gas to ACRPC's full Commission at the September 12th meeting. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion, which all approved.

At the July meeting Adam informed the Executive Board that a Commissioner would introduce a motion that the Commission file a "dissenting opinion" in its testimony before the Public Service Board. The Board acknowledged the Commissioner's right to make the motion, but instructed Adam to create a memorandum stating that the executive board opposed the motion. Adam presented the Board with a draft memorandum against the motion to file a dissenting opinion. The Board accepted the memorandum, made some small changes and instructed Adam to include it in the September package with the proposed motion so people will have an opportunity to consider the issue in advance of the meeting.

Emergency Management, HMGP Status. Adam noted that the State still expects to hear back regarding the success of the application it filed in around October. It also expects some additional time to move it through to a contract.

Committee Assignments: The Board worked through the responses it had received from those Commissioners that had made Committee requests. It endeavored to honor requests and to create balanced committees. The appointments as a result of its deliberations are contained in the Committee Assignments which the Board will distribute with the full Commission package.

Lease Status: Adam noted that our current landlord had agreed to extend the lease for a year, contingent on other tenants also extending. Both other tenants have agreed to a one year extension. Therefore Adam doubts our ability to get a longer extension, but will ask. Thea also noted we should try for an additional right of first refusal as long as the landlord is not rebuilding. Adam will pursue both.

Other: Vance DeBouter, ACRPC's accountant, will be working at the Commission starting September 15th.

NEW BUSINESS

Transportation Planner Position: Adam informed the Board that Daryl was leaving ACRPC at the end of September. Adam noted that Daryl had done good work, most recently securing a \$750,000 grant for Middlebury and Weybridge to install sidewalks around the Pulp Mill Bridge area. Adam then handed out a proposed advertisement for the Board's information.

Other:

ADJOURNMENT

David Hamilton moved to adjourn. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Adam Lougee