

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
January 27, 2016

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Executive Board held its monthly meeting at the Regional Planning Commission's office in Middlebury with Chair, Thea Gaudette, presiding.

ROLL CALL

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| <i>Bristol</i> | Chico Martin |
| <i>Leicester</i> | Diane Benware |
| <i>Middlebury</i> | David Hamilton |
| <i>Middlebury</i> | Ted Davis |
| <i>Monkton</i> | Thea Gaudette |
| <i>Ripton</i> | Jeremy Grip |
| <i>Shoreham</i> | Nick Causton |

STAFF: Adam Lougee, Director

Thea opened the meeting at 6:35.

MINUTES:

December 3, 2015 Minutes: Chico Martin moved to adopt the December 3, 2015 minutes. David Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote with Nick Causton abstaining.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Adam supplied a Treasurer's report including balances as of January 27 and a budget report complete through December of the current fiscal year. Adam noted that the cash balances are currently a little low, but with significant receivables. Therefore, they should increase as we collect those receivables. In the current fiscal year, Adam noted that revenues currently about exceed expenses. **Nick Causton moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Ted Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Act 250/248: Adam noted that we had received one act 250 application (Gervy Park, replace mobile homes with affordable housing), one Section 248 application for a 500kV solar array (Shoreham Refrigerated Storage immediately behind their building) and three Section 248 45 day notices for 500 kW solar arrays in Addison, Ferrisburgh and Middlebury since the full Commission meeting. The Committee will meet on February 4th to discuss them.

Local Government Committee: No meeting.

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

Energy: The Committee has not met since the full Commission meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Diane Benware reported the TAC met in January. Its primary piece of business was a ranking district leveling (paving projects) for the Region. Next meeting it will rank other state transportation projects. In March it intends to take up Vergennes request for a truck bypass for northbound trucks.

Plan Re-write. The full Commission will conduct its second hearing on the proposed plan amendments at its February meeting. The Committee has reviewed the comments received before and at the first hearing and has incorporated pertinent comments into the plan amendments which it will present to the full Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

Solar Siting: Adam noted that siting remains a significant issue for the Region and that he had served on the State Solar Siting Task Force. The Task Force made a number of recommendations to the legislature. He handed out and reviewed a copy of the Task Force Final Report linked here at:

http://solartaskforce.vermont.gov/sites/solarsiting/files/documents/final_report/Solar%20Siting%20Task%20Force%20Report_Final_012216.pdf

TDI New England: Adam noted the project had received its permits. He also noted that the Final Order did not make any comments regarding the ability of municipalities to tax the infrastructure in the lake portion of the line.

Vermont Greenline: Adam stated that he had met with representatives of the project. They will present the project to the full Commission as its program for March.

Amendments to Regional Plan: Adam discussed the plan for the next hearing at the February Full Commission meeting. He noted that he would send the minor changes made as a result of the first hearing out to the full Commission prior to the Second hearing.

Other: None.

NEW BUSINESS

TRORC appeal to the Supreme Court. Adam informed the Executive Board that the TRORC is appealing an adverse finding in a land use case to the Supreme Court. The issue under appeal involves whether the court correctly interpreted the Regional Plan in applying criterion 10 in an Act 250 case. The Board thanked Adam for the update, but took no action.

Council of Governments Legislation: Adam handed out a copy of a bill before the legislature that would authorize the voluntary conversion of Regional Planning Commissions to Councils of Government. The legislation is being proposed by the Southern Windsor RPC in order to officially authorize expansion of an RPC's activities beyond planning and into providing services to its member municipalities if requested by its members. Adam noted that ACRPC already provides services that help municipalities by aggregating purchases and facilitating cooperation. He is not sure the legislation is necessary, but does not believe it would do any harm either and recommended that ACRPC watch a couple of other transitions before it opts in. He did note that the legislation requires much closer ties with selectboards, which would change the composition of ACRPC's board if the legislation passes and ACRPC chooses to convert.

Report Sent to Towns for the Annual Report. Adam handed out copies of the one page report ACRPC provides to member municipalities summarizing the activities it undertakes in the course of a year. It provides a good general overview of the work ACRPC undertakes.

Other: Thea noted that Bill Sayre sent a letter requesting that the Commission discuss Vergennes Proposal for a truck bypass. The Executive Board decided it would be an appropriate item to discuss at its April meeting after the TAC had a chance to discuss it at the TAC's March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Jeremy Grip moved to adjourn. Ted Davis seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Adam Lougee