

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2018

ACRPC held its monthly meeting at its office on Seminary Street in Middlebury with the Chair, Jeremy Grip of Ripton, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Edward Payne
Andrew Manning

Orwell:

Bristol: Peter Grant

Panton:

Cornwall:

Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker
Tim Davis
Arabella Holzapfel

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Barrie Bailey

Goshen: Jim Pulver

Shoreham: Nick Causton

Leicester: Diane Benware

Starksboro: Marjorie Dickstein

Lincoln: Steve Revell

Vergennes: Mel Hawley
Shannon Haggett

Middlebury: Karl Neuse
Ted Davis
Ross Conrad

Waltham:

Weybridge:

Monkton: Stephen Pilcher
Wendy Sue Harper

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

New Haven: Jim Walsh
Harvey Smith

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:
Addison County Economic Development Corp:
Otter Creek Audubon Society:
Otter Creek Natural Resources:
Addison County Chamber of Commerce:

Kent Wright
Ron Payne
Paul Wagner
Rob Carter

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Jeremy Grip
Vice-Chair: Diane Benware
Secretary: Nick Causton
Treasurer: Ted Davis
At Large: David Hamilton
Steve Revell
Tim Davis

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee
Assistant Director/GIS Manager: Kevin Behm
EM/Senior Planner: Tim Bouton
Transportation Planner: Josh Donabedian
Land use Planner: Claire Tebbs
Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino
Eco-Americorps member: Nicole Boudah

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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7:00 p.m. Roll Call; Jeremy Grip the Commission Chair, welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and announced that since he anticipated that the Commission would vote on several key items tonight, including adoption of the Transportation Section of the Plan and re-adoption of the entire plan, he would start the meeting by taking the roll. Those delegates and alternates present are represented on the first page of these minutes.

7:05 p.m. Reconvene Hearing on the amendment of the Transportation Section of the Addison County Regional Plan and re-adoption of the entire Addison County Regional Plan. Jeremy opened the public hearing section of the agenda. Adam explained that at its February meeting the Full Commission voted to recess its second hearing on the proposed amendments to the Transportation Section of the Plan to resolve an issue that came up at the hearing dealing with a paragraph in the Plan involving the ACTR transportation hub and parking in downtown Middlebury. Attached to March's meeting agenda Adam had included a memorandum outlining how staff addressed the issue. The March meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm. Adam re-distributed the agenda at this meeting. Adam summarized that the memo concludes that the small change staff proposes to clarify one sentence of the Plan regarding parking in downtown Middlebury does not impact the Plan's policy and therefore constitutes a non-substantive change. Adam recommended closing the hearing and moving to a vote on the amendments to the Transportation Section of the Addison County Regional Plan and re-adoption of the entire Plan. Jeremy asked if there were any more comments for the hearing.

Ross Conrad moved to close the hearing and vote to approve the Transportation Section of the Plan and re-adopt the entire Addison County Regional Plan. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the members of the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Transportation Section of the Plan and re-adopt the Addison County Regional Plan in its entirety.

Thea Gaudette, the Chair of the Transportation Advisory Subcommittee responsible for drafting the plan requested that Adam confirm that enough delegates were present to approve the plan. Adam confirmed that the ACRPC bylaws require a supermajority of 22 (60%) of the seated delegates to vote in favor the plan for it to pass. Adam confirmed that the unanimous vote of the Commission that evening was supported by a supermajority of the delegates enabling the vote to pass.

7:15 BUSINESS MEETING: Jeremy opened the meeting by introducing the first order of business.

I. Approval of Minutes. A motion by Tom Scanlon to accept the February 14, 2018 minutes, seconded by Peter Grant was approved by voice vote.

II. Executive Board Minutes: Jeremy noted that the Executive Board draft minutes are included in the meeting package. He explained that they are available for the Commission's information, but do not require any action. Upon hearing no questions regarding the draft Executive Board meeting minutes, Jeremy move to the next item on the agenda.

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting



III. Treasurers Report: Adam presented the Treasurer’s Report. Adam noted that revenues are slightly ahead of expenses through February. He cautioned that revenues should be much further ahead and concluded he needs to watch revenue projections closely. **A motion by Tom Scanlon to approve the treasurer’s report as presented, seconded by Ellen Kurrelmeyer was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

IV. Committee Reports:

ACT250/248 Committee: Ellen provided a report of the Committee’s activities and applications filed and approved since the last meeting.

She noted the Committee had met and reviewed an application by Middlebury College for a “Swing Building” to house other facilities as they are being renovated on campus. The application is currently slated to be reviewed as a minor amendment.

She also noted that Middlebury Ventures Solar had approached the committee requesting to determine whether the commission would work with the Town of Middlebury to deem its existing solar site, plus some additional acreage in between the existing arrays as a “preferred net metered site”. The Committee concluded it is a good site, but it will wait for the Town of Middlebury before making any recommendations to the full Commission.

Lastly, Ellen noted that the Committee reviewed a proposal from Tim Bouton for a study related to the capacity of state highways as they relate to zoned commercial areas within the Region. The Committee sent the proposal back to Adam to finish and incorporate into the work program.

Energy Committee: Jeremy Grip reported that the Energy Committee met for a very long meeting on Tuesday April 3rd. He reported that the latest draft is available on the website for all to review. Adam noted that the proposed Energy Section of the plan will be ready for its first public hearing in June. However, if anyone has comments on the current draft, they should send comments to Adam.

Natural Resources: The Natural Resources Committee met to discuss Forest Fragmentation just prior to the full commission meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met in March. Its primary items for discussion were finishing regional priorities and the proposed 22A Truck Corridor Study with VTrans.

Local Government Committee: The Local Government Committee noted it has upcoming meetings in Leicester on April 25th. It shall also report its previous meeting with towns under new business.

V. Joint Partners Report: None.

VI. Delegate Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights: Adam handed out the monthly highlights. Adam referenced Tim's thank you to the Commission and Kevin's statement regarding he Claire and Nikki's work with the conservation commissions.

VII. Old Business.

Adoption of the Transportation Section of the Plan and re-adoption of the entire Addison County Regional Plan: See above.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business

Vote to regionally confirm the planning process for the Town of Shoreham and regionally adopt the Shoreham Town Plan. On behalf of the Local Government Committee, Shannon Haggett noted that it had held a public hearing on the Shoreham Town Plan jointly with the Shoreham Planning Commission. After the hearing the Committee voted to recommend to the Full Commission that Shoreham was engaged in a planning process and that the Shoreham Town Plan contained all required elements and should be granted regional approval. **Shannon moved that ACRPC should confirm the planning process for the Town of Shoreham and regionally adopt the Shoreham Town Plan. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion, which the Commission approved by voice vote.**

Vote to regionally confirm the planning process for the Town of Middlebury and regionally adopt the Middlebury Town Plan. On behalf of the Local Government Committee Ted Davis noted that it had recently held a public hearing on the Middlebury Town Plan jointly with the Middlebury Planning Commission. After the hearing the Committee voted to recommend to the full commission that Middlebury was engaged in a planning process and that the Middlebury Town Plan contained all required elements and should be granted regional approval. **Ted moved that ACRPC should confirm the planning process for the Town of Middlebury and regionally adopt the Middlebury Town Plan. Andrew Manning seconded the motion, which the Commission approved by voice vote.**

Vote to regionally confirm the planning process for the Town of Lincoln and regionally adopt the Lincoln Town Plan. On behalf of the Local Government Committee Ted Davis noted that it had recently held a public hearing on the Lincoln Town Plan jointly with the Lincoln Planning Commission. After the hearing the Committee voted to recommend to the full commission that Lincoln was engaged in a planning process and that the Lincoln Town Plan contained all required elements and should be granted regional approval. **Ted moved that ACRPC should confirm the planning process for the Town of Lincoln and regionally adopt the Lincoln Town Plan. Andrew Manning seconded the motion, which the Commission approved by voice vote.**

Ted concluded that all of the towns recently approved expressed thanks to the staff for the help they provided with their respective plans.

Proposed Workplan and Budget: Adam presented the Commission with a draft workplan and budget for FY 2019 beginning on July 1, 2018. Adam spent a considerable amount of time walking the commission through the revenue items in the budget and explaining the planning program from which the revenue stemmed

Report of the Nominating Committee. Steve Revell gave the report of the Nominating Committee. He noted the Nominating Committee proposed the slate of the following officers:

Diane Benware, Chair;
Stephen Pilcher, Vice Chair;
Ted Davis, Treasurer;
Tim Davis, Secretary;
Steve Revell, at large,
Nick Causton, at large;
Shannon Haggett, at large;

Jeremy thanked Steve for the work of the Nominating Committee. Jeremy noted that our bylaws also provide for nominations from the floor at both the April and Annual Meeting of the Commission in June. Hearing no nominations from the floor, Jeremy instructed Adam to prepare the slate for the vote at the Full Commission and reiterated that nomination would be open from the floor again at the May Annual Meeting.

Discussion of Annual Meeting Location and Speaker. Jeremy noted we generally rotated our meeting location to a place that would fit the entire commission comfortably. This year we expect to be back in New Haven at Tourterelle. Adam also noted that Ted Davis had secured Jim Blair, a former photographer for National Geographic to speak to the Commission. Ted informed the committee that he expected that Jim's talk would be beautifully illustrated with his photography and very interesting.

Nominations for the Bertha Hanson Award. Adam reminded the Commission that if they had a nominee for the Bertha Hanson award, they should speak with a member of the Executive Board prior to its April 25th meeting.

Other: Paul Wagner questioned the efficacy of Green Mountain Power's program that provides rebates to electric car purchasers using funds collected from other ratepayers.

Another member noted the recent Addison Independent editorial regarding the problem of chronically low milk prices in the dairy industry driven largely by oversupply in the industry. He cited both James Maroney's editorial and Angelo Lynn's reply.

IX. Member Concerns. None.

X. Adjourn. On a motion to adjourn by Peter Grant, seconded by Ted Davis and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Adam Lougee

DRAFT