

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, May 12, 1999

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's May 12, 1999 meeting was held at Mary's at Baldwin Creek Restaurant, with Thea Gaudette presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison</i>	Wilson Korth	<i>New Haven</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Bridport</i>	Ed Payne		
		<i>Orwell</i>	
<i>Bristol</i>	William Sayre Peter Grant		
<i>Panton</i>			
<i>Cornwall</i>	Justin Brande	<i>Ripton</i>	Willem Jewett
<i>Ferrisburgh</i>	Wendell Sessions	<i>Salisbury</i>	
<i>Goshen</i>		<i>Shoreham</i>	
<i>Lincoln</i>	Rick Good	<i>Starksboro</i>	Jeff Dunham Bob Hall Dan Baker
<i>Leicester</i>		<i>Vergennes</i>	
<i>Middlebury</i>	Fred Dunnington Jeffrey Nelson	<i>Waltham</i>	
<i>Monkton</i>	Thea Gaudette	<i>Weybridge</i>	
		<i>Whiting</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer Peg Allen

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

ACCAG: Rod Griffin

STAFF:

Kevin Behm
Susie Leonard
Tim Bouton
Adam Lougee

Guests/Panelists

Robert Turner

PUBLIC PROGRAM: Robert Turner and Other Starksboro Residents on Their Locally Generated Community Initiatives

After an opportunity to socialize and dine the meeting began with a presentation concerning planning in the Town of Starksboro. Robert Turner began the presentation by speaking about the important aspects of a community. He offered some key points of interest on the initiatives that Starksboro has generated. He also made the following general statements regarding community:

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ARE PLACES WHERE:

- Associations of people act through common interest and consent
- Citizenship is expressed
- Leadership capacity is cultivated; there is room for many to assume a leadership role
- The democratic ideal is paramount: The best solution is one that incorporates individual weaknesses and reveals the unique intelligence of the community
- Institutional burdens are minimal; community associations can respond quickly to needs
- Creativity is encouraged
- Respect for people and ideas is fundamental

There are approximately 1600 residents in Starksboro, 900 registered voters, and approximately 400 households. Robert noted that since 1993 Starksboro had created a number of informal organizations that helped to create a sense of community. The town publishes a monthly newsletter that has approximately 20 active organizations that contribute to it. It costs about \$2,000 for printing it and the town clerk does the labeling. Over the past 5 years there have been approximately \$50,000-\$60,000 in grants to the community for various projects. 30-40% of households recycles. All organizations contribute to the "social fabric" of the community.

Dan Baker, also of Starksboro, continued the presentation focusing on the process Starksboro used to create its sense of community. Dan stated Starksboro's process started when a large group of people got together and started contacting other townspeople from a random voter checklist and invited them to attend town meetings. Smaller groups were formed to get ideas and opinions on topics, which then were discussed with the larger group. For example, one group talked about zoning. Its two main concerns related to accommodating small home businesses and to creating a process which allowed small alterations without permitting. These concerns were brought before the town and discussed, and incorporated into the regulations. Small home businesses are permitted and residents don't need a permit to do minor changes. Other groups set goals and held forums concerning those goals. The 2nd forum regarded Rural Character – Agriculture & Forestry. The 3rd forum concerned Supporting Farming in town, and the 4th forum dealt with the Forestry and Village Districts and sprawl. Dan noted that the Ag Working Group was a really significant group in town that had made a lot of accomplishments.

As a final note, Dan mentioned that the saving of the Colton farm couldn't have been done without the help of the Land Trust. Robert & Dan concluded that Starksboro is creating a community that values its people and their respective opinions. They concluded that the more informal groups involved in a community, the better the local democratic process works.

Starksboro, in general, was congratulated on its communities' work.

BUSINESS MEETING:

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Wendell Sessions moved to approve the minutes of the April 14, 1999 Commission meeting. Harvey Smith seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with 2 abstentions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thea opened the floor for discussion. Jeff Dunham stated that he was not aware of the vote for Executive Director, and wanted to know why it was not listed as a specific agenda item on the notice of the last meeting. Jeff questioned whether the vote was legal. He stated he would have appreciated prior notice of the vote concerning the Executive Director's appointment. Thea stated that the vote and appointment were discussed at the previous meeting. However, she noted it was an oversight not to put the item specifically on the agenda. Thea noted that the By-laws delegate the power to the Executive Board to search for, contract with and present an Executive Director to the full commission for approval. She noted the E-Board followed that process. The question really concerned whether the vote required specific prior notice to be given on the meeting agenda. Thea felt that since the appointment and voting process had been followed, that the vote of the commission last meeting constituted a legal vote. Adam researched the Bylaws and didn't find any provisions requiring prior notice with regard to whether or not items of a meeting will be voted on at the meeting.

After a lengthy discussion, it was moved by Jeff Dunham to re-warn as an agenda item the approval of the Executive Board's recommendation of the Executive Director. Rick Good, seconded the motion. Jeff Nelson stated it was unfair to put Adam in the position of not knowing whether or not he has a job for the next month. He noted that it was important for members to attend monthly meetings to keep informed on these topics. The motion was voted on and failed by a vote of 6 for and 10 against. A second motion was made that the previous vote of the full commission concerning the appointment of Adam Lougee as Executive Director be ratified. The motion was seconded and passed. There being no further old business, Thea moved the meeting forward.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Fred Dunnington distributed the Treasurer's Report and stated the checkbook balance is \$22,341.55, the Vanguard account contains \$42,754.47, a 6-month CD held \$8,649.26, and accounts receivables are \$5,915.00. Ed Payne made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read, the motion was seconded by Harvey Smith, and unanimously accepted, with one abstention.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ACT 250: Wendell Sessions stated that the District 9 Environmental Commission had denied a permit to Stewarts on its proposed outlet on the corner of Rt. 7 and Rt. 22A based on criteria 8, aesthetics.

TAC: Dan Baker & Susie Leonard spoke outlined the TAC meeting held on April 21. An interesting presentation was made on the state's Historic Bridge Program. They also mentioned that the state is still going through a major screening process and continues to have a large backlog of transportation projects. The state is working on projects that have a 5-year timeline.

Seminar Series: Susie Leonard mentioned an upcoming Seminar Series Program with Hank Lambert, Director of the Vermont Local Roads Program. This constitutes the final seminar in the series and concerns Class Four Roads. The seminar will be held on May 27, 1999 at the Jury Room, Judge Frank Mahady Court House, from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Susie requested that those interested in attending pre-register.

DELAGATE/STAFF RECOGNITION:

Thea thanked the Staff of the Commission for their hard work. Kevin was given additional credit and thanked for the work he performed as executive director.

Bill Sayre thanked Thea for her many years as Chair on the Commission and applause was given. Thea thanked everyone and mentioned that she has enjoyed serving as Chair.

Joint Partners Reports: The Joint Partners Workplan will be submitted May 17, 1999.

ACTION ITEMS:

Vote on Executive Board Members: Dan Baker opened the discussion by noting that after being on the Executive Board for 5 years, he believes no cooperation exists on the Commission, especially concerning Natural Resources. Dan expressed his concern that he felt that the E-Board was not including the full commission in enough decisions and that its actions were contributing to low participation. Dan also stated that the Commission was not headed towards representing the entire community at the regional level. He believes that the Executive Board is not balanced. He would like to see more of the community reflected within the Commission.

Ed Payne stated he believes that there has been a lot of compromise. He believes that the Commission could be made stronger by participation from the general membership in the committee structure. Ed believes that the full Commission cannot function as a whole on all issues. Rather Committees need to be empowered to make decisions.

Thea presented the slate of Executive Board members as recommended by the nominating committee:

Fred Dunnington, Chair
Harvey Smith, Vice-Chair
Willem Jewett, Treasurer
William Sayre, Secretary
Ed Payne
Wendell Sessions
Wilson Korth

Thea requested nominations from the floor. None were offered. However, Jeff Dunham questioned whether the membership had to vote on the entire slate. Adam reviewed the By-laws. Adam determined that the proper procedure had been followed to nominate the slate of Executive Board nominees. A discussion ensued concerning whether or not the slate of Executive Board nominees had to be voted on. Upon the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made to vote on the Executive Board nominees as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded and passed by a vote of 11 for, 3 against and 3 abstaining. The members were approved as nominated.

Next a motion was made for a vote on the officers as nominated. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously, with 4 abstentions.

Vote on FY00 Workplan and Budget:

Fred Dunnington distributed a copy of the FY00 Workplan and Budget. Rick Good commented that the Towns of Lincoln and Leicester needed to be added to the list of member municipalities. Thea noted that the workplan is a collaborative effort of 3 organizations. She noted additional areas of work need to be reviewed and updated, including Transportation and Emergency Management Planning to the extent of available funding. A member requested that special attention be paid to emergency management because of the disaster of 1998 and [Y2K](#) concerns. No one amended the Budget, but Fred mentioned that the budget might increase. Fred Dunnington moved to accept the proposed budget for FY00. It was seconded by Willem Jewett and approved unanimously with no abstentions.

COMMENTS:

Adam listed some current projects before the Commission. Tim Bouton, our emergency planning coordinator, is working on a Vermont Disaster Recovery Initiative grant. He has submitted a letter of intent requesting \$350,000 for electric generators to supply power to town emergency facilities. Currently, Tim has received positive responses from Bristol, New Haven, Lincoln & Monkton. Tim also expects Starksboro, Addison, Ripton and Middlebury to apply. Adam encouraged Commission members to speak to their selectmen about the program and mentioned the May 17, 1999 deadline. Adam also stated Tim would host a meeting on May 26, 1999 in Rutland regarding Town Rapid Response Plans for Emergency Management.

Lastly, Adam noted that the Middlebury delegates have switched positions; David Smith is now an alternate, and Karl Neuse is a delegate. David Smith currently represents the commission on the Addison County Economic Development Commission's Board. If anyone is interested in that position, the Commission will accept nominations at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Thea moved to adjourn the meeting. Rick Good seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Theresa A. Sawyer