

Addison County Regional Planning Commission Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Annual Meeting on May 10, 2000 meeting was held at Roland's Place in New Haven with Fred Dunnington presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne		Charles Huizenga
	Kent Wright	<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Bristol:</i>	William Sayre	<i>Orwell:</i>	
	Peter Grant	<i>Panton:</i>	David Raphael
<i>Cornwall:</i>		<i>Ripton:</i>	Willem Jewett
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Rick Good	<i>Vergennes:</i>	Terry Faith-Weihs
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington	<i>Waltham:</i>	Thomas Yager
	Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
	David Smith	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

<i>AC Chamber of Commerce:</i>	
<i>AC Community Action Group:</i>	Robert Bernstein
<i>Otter Creek Audubon Society:</i>	Judy Kowalczyk
<i>AC Economic Development Corp.:</i>	

STAFF:

Adam Lougee
Kevin Behm
Tim Bouton
Susie Leonard
Diane Meyerhoff

Business Meeting

Approval of Minutes: 4/12/200 and 4/26/00

Karl Neuse moved to approve the minutes of the monthly meeting on April 12, 2000 and the Executive Board Meeting on April 26, 2000. Bob Bernstein seconded the motion. All approved, with Rick Good abstaining.

Treasurer's Report

Fred Dunnington reminded tonight's guests to please settle up for this evening's meal at Roland's Place. Willem Jewett distributed the Treasurer's report, and Fred announced that the Commission is in good shape financially. He called for questions or comments regarding the report. There being none,

Thea Gaudette moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Peter Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Act 250: There will be a site meeting in Bristol on Wednesday, May 17. Ed Payne asked about opposition to the National Bank of Middlebury's plans to utilize a site in Bristol for a new facility. Bob Bernstein replied that, as there are already pending plans to demolish the building, the Commission for Historical Preservation would rather reuse it than tear it down. It would then be possible to save the building *and* have a bank. The site is officially listed in the Register of Historic Places as having historic features. Karl Neuse added that an application for an ACT 250 permit has been submitted regarding this site.

Natural Resources Committee: none

Transportation Advisory Committee: Dan Baker was not in attendance to present. Adam Lougee thanked those who attended the TAC meeting to discuss transportation issues in Vergennes. The meeting addressed the Vergennes Bypass, the truck traffic through Vergennes and the impact of

these issues on the downtown area. A short-term solution to these problems is Route 22 A. A Bypass is a potential long-term solution to the problem. The ACRPC and the Transportation Department will conduct a study of these issues, and Dan Baker, the chairperson of TAC, will present the results during the June meeting. Susie Leonard reported that she is waiting for proposals regarding a regional multi-modal transportation center in Middlebury. More information will be given at a later date.

Joint Partners Report

There being no representatives from the Addison County Economic Development Corporation or the Addison County Chamber of Commerce in attendance this evening, Fred reported that the partnership was going smoothly.

Delegate/Staff Recognition

Allan Cremer, Member of the TAC from Cornwall, was recognized and thanked for his work compiling a study of the Bridges of Addison County. Adam recounted Allan's exceptional work with Kevin Behm, ACRPC's GIS Manager. Al visited every bridge in Addison County, locating them for maps with a GPS (Global Positioning System) unit, taking photographs of them, and formulating engineering summaries. Adam pointed out that Allan had noted the poor condition of the Lincoln Bridge shortly before it fell into the river. Copies of this study, entitled The Bridges of Addison County, were exhibited at the meeting and will be distributed to each town in Addison County, as well as the Agency of Transportation.

Old Business

Executive Board: During the last meeting, the Nominations Committee, consisting of Thea Gaudette, Willem Jewett, and Fred Dunnington, presented a slate of officers for the next term, beginning July 1, 2000. The nominations were: Harvey Smith/Chair, Thea Gaudette/Vice-Chair, Willem Jewett/Treasurer, Ellen Kurrelmeyer/ Secretary, and Thomas Yager, Bill Sayre, and Ed Payne/ Other Officers. Fred then asked for any other nominations or comments about the committee's choices. There being none,

Bob Bernstein moved to approve the new board. Peter Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The new board starts July first.

Workplan and Budget for FY2001: A draft workplan and budget had been reviewed at the last meeting and was included in the materials sent to each delegate in preparation for tonight's meeting. Fred called for questions and comments regarding the new budget.

Bob Bernstein questioned the absence of sections regarding housing, education, and culture in the workplan. He stressed that he was not advocating the addition of these sections, but asking for history regarding the manner in which these subjects were dealt in the past and the opportunities for the future. Fred responded that the issues included in the workplan are those that the main funding of the Commission requires to be addressed. He further pointed out that the issues Bob referred to are often addressed under various regional planning sections, as opposed to having their own separate sections within the plan. Bill Sayre commented that all three of these issues are covered within the plan. He stated that housing does, in fact, have its own section, with a set of policies and background information provided. The culture section, he said, is in progress. Bob conceded that these issues might be covered but that they are not in the forefront of the plan as much as other issues are. Adam reiterated that the items in the budget reflect priorities that the Agency of Development and Community Affairs, a major funding source of the Commission, request to be focused upon. This includes housing, he stated, but other items, such as education and culture, are the focal point of other organizations, such as the joint partners. The Commission works with these organizations by supplying them with statistics and research to assist them in planning their programs. The Commission has provided information for projects such as the School-to-Work Program and the Rokeby Museum.

Susie Leonard suggested that the commission could support historic preservation in Salisbury with a small schoolhouse renovation or a museum. She stated that this would be a way to offer support to the community and assist in pointing out important elements of the town without spending thousands of dollars. Adam agreed and suggested that the commission could issue letters of support regarding projects such as these.

David Raphael expressed some concern with respect to the vague wording of the section concerning the implementation of a management plan acknowledging Rt.125 as a designated scenic highway. He was concerned about what, exactly, would be implemented with such an innocuous mission statement in place. Susie replied that a study of issues such as drainage problems would help provide guidance for managing the road. She also identified preserving a sensitive maintenance program as an implementation of the management plan.

Judy asked about the Sandhill Bridge and whether it would be replaced in its current site. Fred replied that the Agency of Transportation is currently reviewing this question. They are trying to strike a balance between a desire not to disturb the swimming hole nearby and aligning the bridge safely, but also in a manner to discourage people from speeding. Fred asserted that in the final analysis, it looks as if the bridge will be replaced in its current site.

Fred announced that the budget is down from last year, mostly due to the completion of several large projects. He called for further questions and comments, but there were none. Adam made an amendment to the proposed workplan, in light of the discussion and concerns of the

Commission, and added a working item which would add a study of the demographics of housing in Addison County to the workplan for 2001.

Harvey made a motion to accept the budget and workplan as proposed, with the amendment. Ed Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed with Kent Wright opposing and zero abstentions.

Other: none

New Business

Resolution Honoring the Work of Justin Brande: Justin Brande was a member of the ACRPC for many years, and he passed away late last month. Adam drafted a resolution honoring Mr. Brande and his work in Addison County. The Commission would like to donate an honorarium in the amount of one hundred dollars to the Home Health and Hospice Inc. in recognition of all Mr. Brande has done for the Commission and Addison County in general.

Karl Neuse moved to approve the honorarium, and Bill Sayre seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Other: none

Member's Concerns/Information

Comments from the Delegates: none

Comments from the Chair: Fred Dunnington thanked everyone for coming to the annual meeting. He has been honored to serve as Chair of the Commission for the past year. He pointed out that the job is similar to that of a moderator, an easy role to assume while working with the gracious members of the Commission. He recapped some of the accomplishments of the Commission this past year and stressed the importance of starting off the first year with a new executive director on the right foot. He congratulated Adam and proclaimed him as the right man for the job. He acknowledge the other staff members for their contributions, including Kevin Behm, Susie Leonard, Diane Meyerhoff, Tim Bouton, Pauline Cousino, who was not in attendance, and Janet Kennedy, for her assistance with the Byways project.

Fred identified waning turnouts at meetings as one of the concerns addressed this past year through sending letters, mission statements, and delegate orientation packets. Adam visited the towns to encourage attendance, solicit workshop topics, and generally reach out to them. Fred anticipates that the seeds planted this year will germinate in the form of increased attendance next year. He then recapped the public workshops which have been presented during the past

year, including: a Report on Alternative Septic Technologies, discussions concerning the Land Trusts, Agriculture, the National Park Services Heritage Corridor Proposal, the State Environmental Board, and the Watershed groups. Fred thanked everyone again and stated that he was looking forward to another productive year and welcomed Harvey Smith as the new chair.

Harvey then thanked Fred for all his hard work and expressed that Fred was modest in saying the job was easy. He further asserted that Fred had led the Commission through some very difficult decisions, and he commended him for his guidance.

Fred concluded by reading the mission statement of the commission, which is to function as a forum for discussion by the towns in Addison County, to gather information for these towns, to develop a regional plan, and to function as a central repository of planning information. Fred declared that the Commission carried this mission forward very well this year.

Adjournment:

Thea Gaudette moved to adjourn the meeting. Peter Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Submitted by: Stacy Johnson