

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

## Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Meeting on June 13, 2001 was held at the Kirk Alumni Center at Middlebury College with Harvey Smith presiding.

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### ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette
<i>Bridport:</i>	Ed Payne		Charles Huizenga
	Kent Wright	<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Bristol:</i>	William Sayre	<i>Orwell:</i>	
	Jim Peabody	<i>Panton:</i>	David Raphael
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Don Shall	<i>Ripton:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>	Joan Witteman	<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Rick Good	<i>Vergennes:</i>	John Emerson
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington	<i>Waltham:</i>	
	Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
		<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer

### CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES

*AC Chamber of Commerce:*  
*AC Community Action Group:*  
*Otter Creek Audubon Society:* Judy Kowalczyk  
*AC Economic Development Corp:*

### STAFF:

Adam Lougee  
Tim Bouton

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## Public Program

Tim Bouton of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission presented the selected projects for the Project Impact Program. Project Impact is grant money awarded to the ACRPC from FEMA totaling \$300,000 to be spent as seed money for disaster mitigation and public awareness. A kick-off meeting a few weeks ago yielded approximately 25 project ideas. A review committee was then formed to evaluate the project ideas and weigh them to determine which ones met the criteria determined for the project most accurately. After a few projects were removed and others were combined into one single idea, 16 projects were chosen and six were reserved as standbys. The projects that made the cutoff, their estimated total cost, and the amount allocated from Project Impact were distributed to the commission members:

1. Red Cross Schools: \$5,140.20 for funding of elementary disaster awareness education program, shelter training workshops, and workshops for the elderly. (countywide)
2. Culvert Replacement in Goshen: \$2,247.90 for replacement of a repeatedly washed out, undersized culvert in Goshen with a larger, stone-paved culvert.
3. Beaver Deceiver in Starksboro: \$1,000 for trapezoidal fences at the entrance to culverts to prevent blockages

created by beavers.

4. Computerized Culvert Sizing Program: \$15,000 for model capable of computerized analysis of watershed size, slope of land, and rainfall to determine the appropriate sized culvert needed in a certain location. (countywide)

5. Disaster Resistant Demonstration House in Cornwall: \$20,000 for an uninhabited model of a disaster resistant home available for public viewing. Money would most likely be repaid after one year when the builder sells it for private occupation. Ed Payne commented that the house looks conventional but is able to withstand fire, flood, wind, and earthquake and does not require insulation. Judy Kowalczyk asked if any alternative energy sources would be incorporated, and Ed Payne responded that it would be equipped with solar panels. Tim clarified that the idea would be to show people these new building materials and techniques that are affordable and little used. Fred Dunnington suggested incorporating the creation of a brochure or some kind of literature regarding the house to make a more lasting effect on the education of the public.

6. Middlebury River Geomorphological Assessment in Middlebury: \$11,250 for remote sensors to determine the stable and unstable reaches of the river with the goal of stabilizing those found to be unstable and preventing the banks from collapsing. David Raphael asked why the banks should be stabilized as this is a natural process which we would be preventing. Fred Dunnington answered that in addition to protecting property, the debris that clutters the river when a bank collapses causes flooding and extensive damage. This would be a way of preventing these circumstances. Tim stated that the river would initially be looked at from the gorge to the mouth, with the intention of looking at the entire length up to the headwaters with additional funding.

7. Ripton Fire Station Move: \$50,000 to assist the town of Ripton in moving their fire station off of the flood plain.

8. Mobile Command Station: \$50,000 to equip a vehicle with multiple radios to open lines of communication in a disaster situation. (countywide)

9. Lower/Armor Halpin Road in New Haven: \$7,500 to lower the road and pave it to prevent surrounding roads from flooding.

10. Weather Alert Radios: \$3,000 for the purchase of radios that filter through only the pertinent weather information for specific areas for schools in the county. (countywide)

11. Shoreline Stabilization Handbook: \$10,000 to assist in the creation of a manual for lakeside landowners detailing their options for shore stabilization.

12. Flood Warning Rain Gauges: \$20,000 for the purchase of specialized gauges that are linked by satellite to the weather service for the towns of Ripton, Goshen, and Lincoln.

13. Monkton Evacuation Center Assistance in Monkton: \$20,000 to assist in the expansion of the existing fire station.

14. Sprinkler a Downtown Building in Bristol: \$20,000 to install sprinklers in the residential floors of a downtown building. The originally building proposed has been withdrawn as the renovations in it were completed, but another building can now be equipped.

15. Disaster Prevention Handbook for Towns: \$5,000 for the creation and publication of a disaster handbook. (countywide)

16. VDRI Generator Project 1999-2001: This project is largely completed, with 20 generators installed throughout the county in the last two years.

The total expenditure for the project list is \$240,000, with the other \$60,000 covering staff expenses, media coverage, and permitting. After the projects have been approved by FEMA, there will be a signing ceremony on July 1, 2001 to kick these projects off. Some projects will be initiated in the coming year while others will take time to permit.

## Business Meeting

Harvey Smith began the meeting with a legislative report updating the committee on the status of some of the hot button topics in the legislature this year. The Act 250 bill was passed with some slight modifications, such as recording appeals on the record, eliminating the 800-ft rule, and the setting of a 10-lot minimum per road before triggering the Act 250 process. The House did not take action on the septic bill, and the Natural Resources Committee continues to revise the statutes. The governor will proceed with the rulemaking process, and it is suspected that his rules will be much more inclusive. There will be public meetings held, so be on the look out for these notices. \$2.6 million has been allocated for the improvement and extension of the rail service to Middlebury. The entire project will require \$5 million total. The Gristmill Bridge is slated for reconstruction this year, and an additional \$13 million in local road, bridge, and culvert reconstruction has been funded. The Elderly Services project will receive \$150,000, the Basin Harbor Expansion will receive \$65,000, and the Morgan Horse farm project will receive \$50,000. Ellen Kurrelmeyer asked how much money will go to the roads in Addison County, and Harvey replied that the amounts are pro-rated depending on the miles of class 2,3, and 4 roads in each town.

### Approval of Minutes: May 9, 2001

**Ed Payne moved to approve the minutes from May 9, 2001. Charlie Huizenga seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Rick Good and David Raphael abstaining.**

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### Treasurer's Report

Adam distributed the treasurer's report and announced that the commission has a healthy bottom line for the end of the year.

**Thea Gaudette moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rick Good seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

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### Committee Reports

TAC: John Emerson reported that the traffic impact study in Vergennes will begin June 28 and proceed through the end of September. There will be a meeting next week to discuss projects for next year.

Local Government: To be discussed later on the agenda.

Act 250: Fred Dunnington reported that applications have been received from Middlebury College regarding the new library and from Country Home Products in Vergennes. Adam pointed out that these are big projects which should be reviewed by the committee for any regional significance. Don Shall asked if the commission had a say in the Bicentennial Hall decision. Adam replied that the application was reviewed by the committee but no action was taken. Judy Kowalczyk added that the outcome was a bit more drastic than the committee initially understood. Fred Dunnington agreed that the noise issues, light reflection off the huge windows, and the many vantage points from which the structure is now visible were somewhat unanticipated. David Raphael asked if aesthetic impact was considered a regional issue. Fred Dunnington responded that the Middlebury town plan now includes aesthetic impact based upon human scale quantification. However, there are no direct regional specifications. Fred also added that the tent roof structure of the Middlebury College Field House is to be replaced by a bubble dome. David Raphael commented that the college is having a quite drastic impact on the lay of Middlebury. Harvey suggested that the committee meet and review the application and report back to the commission.

Housing: Jim Peabody reported that there was an informal meeting prior to the commission meeting this evening but there is nothing to report.

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## Joint Partners Report

To be discussed later in the agenda.

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### Old Business

CEDS Update: The Guiding Principles of the steering committee were approved at the annual meeting. There will be a meeting of the four executive boards on June 19 to work on the structure of the steering committee. Each organization will appoint three members from their organization and the committee will appoint four “at large” members as well. They are looking for a diverse group that represents all aspects of the community. The executive board has suggested that the members from the Regional Planning Commission be Thea Gaudette, Fred Dunnington, and Harvey Smith.

**Jim Peabody moved to nominate Thea Gaudette, Fred Dunnington, and Harvey Smith to the CEDS steering committee. Karl Neuse seconded the motion. The motion passed, with Fred Dunnington abstaining.**

Vote on Projects Selected for Project Impact: Harvey reminded the commission that the projects must still be approved by FEMA.

**Don Shall moved to approve the recommended projects and submit them to FEMA. John Emerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Other: none

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### New Business

Vote On Approval And Confirmation of Middlebury Town Plan: Thea Gaudette stated that the Local Government Committee recommends the approval of the Middlebury Town Plan as amended.

**Fred Dunnington moved to accept the Middlebury Town Plan as amended. Don Shall seconded the motion. The motion passed with Fred Dunnington abstaining.**

Joint Partnership Agreement and Initiatives: Adam distributed the agreement and initiatives, commenting that the items included in it were things that were already included in the Regional Planning Commission Workplan. Rick Good asked if it was necessary to approve the document this evening. Adam replied that it was better to do so, and Thea Gaudette pointed out that it was first distributed a month ago. Karl Neuse asked if the wording in the agreement obligates the commission to revise the housing section of the regional plan based on information the partners put together, as this indicates a delegation of our own responsibility. Jim Peabody suggested that the wording be revised to indicate that the planning commission “may” use this information.

**Jim Peabody moved to amend the wording in Section five sentences two and three of the Joint Partnership Agreement and Initiatives to read “may” instead of “will.” Karl Neuse seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Rick Good asked if we were only approving the document for this organization, and Adam responded that the other organizations all had to approve as well.

**Bill Sayre moved to approve the Joint Partnership Agreement and Initiatives as amended. Jim Peabody seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Membership For Next Fiscal Year: The committees do not need to be selected until September, but, as there is no meeting in August, it is time to begin to think about it. Commission members should speak with a

member of the executive board if they are interested in a particular committee. The committees are: Housing and Economic Development, Act 250, Local Government, Transportation, and Natural Resources. The decisions will be made after the July meeting.

Letter to Basin Planning Framework Committee: Adam drafted a letter stating the importance of incorporating the already established regional plan into the newly begun Basin Plan. Each of the 17 watersheds will need a plan within the next couple of years, and the plans will be reviewed every five years. The letter outlined the overlapping areas of concern amongst these groups and called for a broad local base in these new watershed councils.

Other: none

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## **Member's Concerns/Information**

Harvey thanked Ed Payne for his service on the executive board.

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## **Adjournment**

**John Emerson moved to adjourn. Charlie Huizenga seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.**

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Submitted by Stacy Johnson