

Addison County Regional Planning Commission Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 2003

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Annual Meeting was held on May 14, 2003, at The Basin Harbor Club's Red Mill Restaurant with Harvey Smith presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>	Alden Harwood	<i>Orwell:</i>	David King Andrea Ochs
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>		<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip Laurel Kritkauskay
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Don Shall	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Chester Hawkins	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Margaret Barnes Elizabeth Golden
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Rick Good	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

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

STAFF:

Adam Lougee
Tim Bouton
Kevin Behm

Business Meeting

The business meeting began at 7:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: April 9, 2003

Ed moved to approve the minutes from April 9, 2003. Thea seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Board Minutes: April 26, 2003

No discussion.

Treasurer's Report

Adam said that the balances are still in good shape, although we're a little tighter this year than in the past. As the next couple months go by, he needs to draw down on the programs that are reimbursable rather than the general fund. We should come out on budget, but we need to watch it carefully. **Rick moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Fred seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Committee Reports

TAC: Rick Good reported that the TAC had met with Janine Hetherington from the Champlain bikeways group to discuss 6 proposed bike routes with themes (i.e., farm tours, etc.) that the group is looking to create with local input in Addison County. The TAC plans to help work on that project. Rick also noted that a number of representatives from the towns of Leicester and Whiting came to speak with the TAC regarding the flooding problem on Route 73 and the State's proposed alternative to improve the Leicester/Whiting Road so that it can serve as the alternate route during times when Route 73 is flooded. He noted that the Towns are amenable to the proposal if the state agrees to certain conditions regarding the roads reconstruction. The TAC supports the towns' conditions.

Because of the work AOT is proposing to do noted above, the TAC also decided that it should reallocate some of the funds it had previously allocated to studying the Leicester/Whiting Road to a project measuring the amount and content of Hazardous waste moving through the county and to develop a study of sidewalks in the village of New Haven.

Local Government: Thea said they go to Leicester next week for the public hearing on their town plan.

Act 250: Fred said that the commission expected the application for the VELCO power line shortly. He expects the Act 250 Committee will meet on the application and make a recommendation based on the regional plan. Fred noted the Norris application to subdivide land on Route 7 in New Haven (The proposed site of the State Police Barracks) also came in. Lastly, he noted that the Heffernan family in Bristol had applied to expand a gravel pit on Plank Rd. near the watershed center, and they also applied to construct a small commercial building on 2.1 acres in Bristol.

Natural Resources: Harvey said they received an update from Nell who met with the Otter Creek Basin group. She's also been working with other watershed groups. The next meeting will be the first Monday in June.

Economic Development: Fred said that their partner work with CEDS work is continuing. The committee meets again on the 20th at 4 pm.

Utilities and Facilities: Ellen said they are continuing their Health and Human Services discussion, and they have begun a complete review of the wastewater rules. They will look at fire, police, and emergency management next.

Staff/Delegate Recognition

Harvey thanked Adam for his hard work since joining the Commission. Adam's been very instrumental in accomplishing the commission's goals, he said. In a recent issue regarding agricultural transportation, Adam did a great job in a very volatile situation. He's also been instrumental in working with the CEDS in putting together an economic strategy. He's done a tremendous job.

Harvey also recognized the rest of the commission staff. Kevin has been very responsive and has always provided high-quality work. Tim has done a great job finding financial resources. Garrett has always provided the information

needed in a timely manner. Brandy's done a great job in working with the different elements of the plan she's been working on. She's been very professional, timely, and responsive. Nell Fraser's been a terrific addition to the staff. Pauline provides great fiscal and administrative stability. They've all played a key role in what we've been able to do. Harvey again recognized Adam for bringing a quality staff together and doing such a great job for the commission.

Adam thanked Harvey for his kind words. He also thanked Harvey for his work as chairperson, providing guidance and encouragement. He's involved in the legislature, the planning commission, the town of New Haven, and his own farm. Harvey's been instrumental in diversifying the commission over the past couple years.

Adam also thanked the staff for its initiative and being so great to work with. He also thanked the commission members. Regional planning is about community participation, he said. It's about the concern of citizens that make this a better place. He thanked the members for providing a plan and an open and fair forum to debate issues. He also thanked them for their guidance during committee meetings and in driving the plan.

Harvey also thanked Fred Dunnington for his work on the Chapter 117 rewrite, saying he's done a great job.

Joint Partners' Report

Adam said he will be getting together with Jamie Stewart from Addison County Economic Development and Linda Stearns from the Addison County Regional Marketing Organization and Chamber of Commerce to put together the budget.

New Business

Nomination and Vote on Executive Board:

Thea said the committee has nominated the following people: Don Shall as chair, Ellen Kurrelmeyer as vice chair, Karl Neuse as treasurer, Thea Gaudette as secretary, and Harvey Smith, Andrea Ochs and Tom Yager as members-at-large. **Ed moved to accept the slate. Judy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Workplan and Budget for FY2004:

Adam worked his way through the revenue sources on the budget and explained each of the corresponding Workplan items that stemmed from the various funding sources. Laurel asked about some of the acronyms mentioned in the plan. Adam said he would spell those out for everyone.

DCA is the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, which provides most of our funding.

Dues are the money that each town pays to the commission.

Transportation ISTEAs, is the money we get from the Agency of Transportation for studies, etc. We are currently conducting culvert inventories in several towns, propose to study the New Haven sidewalk project, etc. Lake Champlain Scenic Byways is a project to create a storyline of themes that run through the region.

GMNF stands for Green Mountain National Forest, which is currently rewriting their plans for the northeast, and we're helping them facilitate their meetings, etc.

CPDP is the Community Planning Development Project, which is a project Kevin's been using to create the build-out programs.

EMPG stands for Emergency Management Planning Grant, our base funding for emergency management work like putting town rapid response plans in place for every town in the region.

PDM stands for Pre-Disaster Mitigation, a FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Administration, program that funded the All Hazard Emergency Management plans that Ross Nagey came to us to discuss.

PI stands for Project Impact, which is another FEMA program that are currently working under funding several mitigation projects in the region, like relocating the Ripton Fire Station or providing the region with a mobile emergency command post.

GIS stands for Geographic Information System, and involves Kevin's mapping projects.

Laurel asked what the “Weatherwax” improvement was about. Adam explained that it constitutes an enhancement grant that the Department of Historic Preservation has requested that the RPC administer on its behalf. The project involves building facilities necessary for the Weatherwax sail ferry to dock in Vermont. Adam noted that he has spoken with the town of Addison regarding a plan to modify the grant. There’s a sandy beach near Chimney Point that the town has planned to turn into a public beach. Adam hopes that the infrastructure serving the Weatherwax can also serve as the infrastructure for a beach in the area.

David King asked about insurance concerns with the Weatherwax. Adam said there are some concerns, but he’s not involved with those aspects of the plan.

Andrea Ochs asked where the dock is in NY. Adam said the dock is in Crown Point.

Ed Payne asked if the facility would be open to other county residents. Adam said they’re still working that out. The town will be covering the maintenance costs, so there may be a fee. The state owns the land.

Alden Harwood said the original proposal was from the Lions Club, which wanted to pick up the maintenance costs. The town is behind the proposal, and wants to open it up to the general public as long as the costs stay in line.

Thea Gaudette made a motion to approve the plan. Andrea Ochs seconded. The plan was approved unanimously.

Other:

Ed mentioned that Bridport had a planning grant, with which Brandy has done an excellent job. They hope to get a joint grant and continue to tweak it.

Member’s Concerns/Information

Harvey said he’s enjoyed chairing the commission. It’s been rewarding, challenging, and sometimes frustrating. He’s discovered that there is a lot of diversity in opinions and that it comes down to compromise. It’s been a pleasure working with the commission, he concluded.

Adjournment

Andrea Ochs moved to adjourn. Fred Dunnington seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Ursula Jones