

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's meeting was held on February 11, 2004, at Middlebury College's Kirk Alumni Center with Don Shall presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>	Alden Harwood	<i>Orwell:</i>	David King
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Jim Peabody	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Matosky
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Don Shall	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Meg Barnes
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	Neil Kamman
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	<i>Waltham:</i>	Thomas Yager
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Jan Albers
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Jerry Smiley		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

AC Chamber of Commerce:
AC Community Action Group:
AC Economic Development Corp:
Otter Creek Audubon Society:
AC Farm Bureau
OC NaturalResource Conservation
District

STAFF:

Adam Lougee
Brandy Saxton

Public Program

The public program was devoted to a discussion of the Vergennes Gateway Redevelopment Project. Don Shall, our Chair, introduced Jeremy Matosky, the project engineer with Trudell Consulting engineers. Prior to Jeremy speaking about the details of the project, Adam stated that he wanted to bring this project to the Commissioner's tonight because it is an excellent project for ACRPC to be involved with. ACRPC is serving as the project manager for the city of Vergennes. In addition to the City, we are also partnering with the Agency of Transportation via a Byways grant due to Vergennes' designation, which ACRPC helped to secure and Green Mountain Power. Adam noted that

the project also constitutes an excellent example of public and private investments benefiting a community as a whole. He noted that several other buildings in the area of this project are due to be rehabilitated. Adam concluded that he hopes this project will really help to build on the good work the City of Vergennes has already accomplished and tie the Basin to the Downtown.

Jeremy y presented each of the project elements, including:

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1. Parking and a boat ramp at settler's park,
 2. A crosswalk and
 3. Walking path linking the parking to the stairs proposed for next to the falls,
 4. The stairway itself, by far the biggest portion of the project, tying the lower basin and the marina to Main Street,
 5. The proposed improvements to City Park,
 6. Signage improvements and
 7. The fishing pier improvements that GMP has already made at its generating facility.
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Jeremy next fielded questions from the commission regarding the project. After answering questions, Don closed the presentation portion of the agenda.

BUSINESS AGENDA:

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- I. **Approval of the Minutes:** December 10, 2004 and January 14, 2004, Jim Peabody noted that he was not at the January meeting and that Peter Grant was. Neil Kammen noted that the parking lot mentioned by Meg Barnes is adjacent to Snake Mountain. Lastly, Andrew Manning noted that the minutes mistakenly referred to Fort Ti instead of the Ti Mill. After noting the corrections, Thea moved to accept the minutes of both meetings. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
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- II. **Executive Board Minutes:** Distributed in the package. Don noted that we did not have a quorum. We did have a discussion which is
 - III. **Treasurer's Report:** Adam distributed the treasurer's report and described the budget as in line with that projected. He did note that VELCO was taking a lot of time he had devoted to other projects. Neil moved to accept the treasurer's report, which was duly seconded and passed unanimously.
 - IV. **Committee Reports:**
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Act 250: Fred noted that there was a hearing on the Chipman Hill Tower redesign.

Economic Development Committee: Jim noted that the committee did not have a quorum at its last meeting. It hopes to have a revised section of the plan available for the annual meeting in May. Jim noted that the committee would like to continue to work on economic development issues. Adam noted that he had some staffing constraints, but stated that he would try to accommodate the action of the committee. Don requested that the committee bring a motion to keep working and that we will try to accommodate that request. Bob noted that as a business owner he was anxious to address issues and take action.

Natural Resources Committee: The Committee met February 2, 2004. First, it discussed the Ticonderoga Mill. Harvey noted that the State of Vermont would now be a part of the process if the Mill chooses to go forward in the future. Harvey also noted that the group discussed water quality in general and specifically requested that ACRPC put in a Notice of Appearance regarding Outstanding Water Resources Designation in the Green Mountain National Forest. Harvey noted that Kevin followed up on that request and attended the first hearing yesterday on the 10th.

The last subject that the committee discussed was the report for the Lemon Fair water quality monitoring study last fall. Bob McCary noted that water quality in the lake has been a problem in the southern part of the lake for years. Now that there are problems in the northern part of the lake, he questioned how the money to solve the problem is being distributed. Harvey responded that as a legislator he is working with the Lake Champlain Association. Harvey also noted that the entire Governor's Clean and Clear initiative is around \$140,000,000. Neil noted that there would be a lot more money spent on the lake over the next two years. Neil noted that he has worked in the

south lake for the last 15 years, and the water quality has changed dramatically for the worse in the last five years.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Meg Barnes Referred to the newsletter for a good summary of the TAC's action at its last meeting. She noted that they appointed two consultants for projects.

Local Government: Thea noted the committee would go to Shoreham next week.

Utilities and Facilities: Brandy noted that the committee is meeting next Monday.

V. Joint Partner's Report: There is a meeting of the Joint Partners with the Agency of Commerce next Friday the 20th at noon to discuss regional cooperation and best practices. ACRPC along with our partners are going to discuss our efforts on behalf of the City of Vergennes, so I will probably present the same thing we discussed tonight.

VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition: None.

VII. Old Business:

Summary of Programs Suggested at the last meeting: Adam referred to the previous meeting minutes, noted the various suggestions and committed to providing programs to address the topics raised.

Green Mountain National Forest Outstanding Water Resources Designation: See above.

VELCO Summary: Adam noted that the hearings started today. Tom Dunn and the Planning Panel testified and were cross-examined on global issues regarding the need for the project. Fred noted that tomorrow and Friday would take up the discussion of aesthetics. Jerry Smiley noted that he was pleased with the focus of the cross on the global issues and the fact that VELCO never really looked into DSM.

Jeremy Grip asked about southern Connecticut and whether the ISO planners had appropriated money to non-transmission alternatives. Fred and Jeremy confirmed that it had.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business:

Homeland Security Unit Grant for Exercising: Adam noted that we had applied for a homeland security grant to staff and provide exercises and equipment to emergency responders so they could better deal with terrorism threats and other natural disasters.

Vermont Highway System Policy Plan. Adam distributed a summary of the highway systems policy planning document. Peter Grant noted that the gravel shoulders on state highways was not good for anyone and wanted us to investigate how to change the state specifications.

Delegate to Orwell Benson Joint Commission: Don noted that he would entertain a motion to appoint Andrea Ochs as the ACRPC delegate to the joint commission. Peter Grant moved the motion; Brian Bauer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

IX. Members Concerns/Information:

Adjournment

Andrea moved to adjourn. Harvey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Submitted by Adam Lougee