

Addison County Regional Planning Commission Full Commission Meeting Wednesday, April 14, 2004

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's meeting was held on April 14, 2004, at Middlebury College Kirk Alumni Center with Don Shall presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>	Alden Harwood	<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne Andrew Manning	<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs
<i>Bristol:</i>	Jim Peabody William Sayre	<i>Panton:</i>	Mike Herman
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall William McQuillan	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Meg Barnes
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Karl Neuse Brian Bauer	<i>Vergennes:</i>	Neil Kamman
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Waltham:</i>	Thomas Yager
		<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer

STAFF:

Adam Lougee
Brandon Saxton

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Donald Shall called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. He advised that this is the first of two public hearings pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 4348 on the proposed amendments to the re-adoption of the Addison County Regional Plan.

Economic Committee Chair Jim Peabody briefly outlined the proposed changes to the policies, goals and objectives that the Committee had made to the Plan.

Fred Dunnington recommended the following changes to the draft for the purpose of clarification:

Economy Section

- p. 5-3: Correct typographical error in third sentence of first paragraph, "as" should be "has."

Consistency Section

- p. 10-2: Replace "consistency" with "compatibility" in first sentence of second paragraph because wording in state statute is compatibility with plans of neighboring regions and consistency with statewide planning goals.
- Page 10-3: Delete the first two paragraphs
- Page 10-3: Delete first paragraph in the Summary
- Page 10-7: Change last sentence to reflect that most of the traffic on the major highways is local not through traffic.
- Page 10-9: Delete the first sentence under the second ACRPC Plan Consistency heading.
- Page 10-10: Replace "large-lot" in the first line with "low density."

- Page 10-10: Remove Middlebury from list of towns in the first sentence of the first full paragraph because Middlebury's agricultural district has a two-acre minimum lot size that does not encourage large lots.
- Page 10-10: Delete discussion in first full paragraph related to the state septic regulations and the 10-acre exemption.

Jim Peabody reiterated that the committee had only dealt with the Economy section, but would do additional work on the proposal if necessary.

Adam Lougee suggested incorporating Fred's recommendations together with any additional revisions to the plan. He noted that Fred's suggestions were generally technical and non-substantive and should be able to be done administratively.

Harvey Smith moved that the Commission adopt the changes as proposed by Representative Dunnington.

There being no further public comments on the plan, Don Shall noted that the second public hearing regarding the proposed amendments would be immediately prior to the Executive Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 29th at 7 p.m. at the regional planning commission offices.

Public hearing adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

Approval of March 10th meeting minutes so moved and duly seconded. It was noted that the roll call was inaccurately reflected in the minutes and needed to be amended to reflect these actually in attendance. The Minutes, as amended, were approved unanimously by voice vote.

II. Executive Board Minutes

Minutes distributed to members. Adam noted minor developments regarding Act 250.

III. Treasurer's Report

Adam reviewed the Treasurer's Report, noting that accounts show good balances to date. This month's billing for the past quarter will be reflected in next month's accounts receivables. The proposed amendment to the FY04 and FY05 budgets to be reviewed later in the meeting.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report offered and duly seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Committee Reports

Act 250 Committee.

Fred Dunnington advised the Commission that the District 9 Environmental Commission's decision regarding the Chipman Hill Telecom tower is still pending; however, he expects the tower will be built this summer.

Economic Development Committee

Brian Bauer distributed a two-page survey outlining Goals and Objectives. Brian asked members to return the survey to him at the upcoming Annual Meeting. He added that Addison County residents would also be asked for their suggestions and recommendations in establishing goals and objectives for the Addison Region.

Chairman Donald Shall distributed a pamphlet entitled "10 Reasons Why Vermont's Homegrown Economy Matters and 50 Proven Ways to Revive It" by Stacy Mitchell, Institute for Local Self-Reliance.

Natural Resources Committee

Harvey Smith reported that the Natural Resources Committee met Monday, April 5th. Discussion included a policy statement in regard to the Ticonderoga paper mill, as well as ways to increase attendance at watershed planning initiatives.

Brian Bauer voiced his concern regarding the Sugar Hill Reservoir and Silver Lake. He noted that the water rights are controlled by utilities, and that in past years Silver Lake has been drawn down to a point of mud. He asked if the State should purchase rights back from the utilities in order to control the level of water in those reservoirs.

Harvey Smith responded that the issue would be a good topic for the Natural Resources Committee to research.

Neil Kamman noted that the reservoirs are controlled by CVPS, who recently completed a 50-year licensing process. He pointed out that even when generating power, the utilities still needed to meet water quality standards. Neil noted that since re-licensing changes of operation in those water bodies are under way, the magnitude of the draw down is expected to be less.

Neil turned the discussion to the current petition for designation of a large quantity of waters within the Green Mountain National Forest as Outstanding. He questioned the use of the word 'outstanding' as a designation for all state waters. He noted that if all state waters are labeled 'outstanding' then waters become 'diluted' for lack of a level of higher standard. Neil noted that the EPA offers guidance, not regulations, on this topic in which it only alludes to what constitutes 'outstanding.'

In regard to the outstanding water resource petition, Ed Payne asked why the initiative is necessary or pertinent. Donald Shall asked what protection the National Forest needs beyond what it already has. Harvey Smith responded that the Forestry initiatives are an ongoing process.

Transportation Committee Report

Adam Lougee noted that the proposed TAC Bylaws for Ratification would be considered as the second agenda item under New Business.

Local Government Committee

Thea Gaudette gave a brief report.

Utilities and Facilities Committee

Ellen Kurrelmeyer reported that the upcoming meeting for the Utilities and Facilities Committee would be held April 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Regional Planning Office. Committee members will discuss how education funding affects planning.

V. Joint Partners Report: none

VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition

Mike Herman, Alternate from Panton; and Peggy Connor, Commission secretary, were recognized.

VII. Old Business

- Report of the Nominating Committee for Election of Executive Board and Officers

Fred Dunnington reported that two members would retire from the commission: Harvey Smith and Ellen Kurrelmeyer. Fred noted that the Nominating Committee strives to achieve a geographic distribution and political balance. He then proceeded to give the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers and members of the Executive Board. The recommended slate includes existing Executive Board members Don Shall, Chair; Vice Chair; Thea Gaudette, Secretary; and Treasurer Karl Neuse, Tom Yager, and Andrea Ochs and new nominees: Rene Perry and Bill Sayre. The Election of the Executive Board will be an agenda item at the Annual Meeting. In addition to those candidates recommended by the nominating committee, the floor will be open for nominations.

- Town Selection of Delegates

Adam noted that packets have been sent to Town Clerks for distribution to their Select Boards for the purpose of nominating delegates and alternates. Adam asked members to interact with their Select Boards and voice their interest in continuing their service on the commission.

- VELCO Summary

Since the re-route mainly affects Vergennes, Ferrisburgh, Charlotte, and Shelburne, and the same counsel represents all and cooperating amongst themselves, the Commission will also generally support the reroute. Accordingly, our participation in the reroute filing will be limited until the next rebuttal phase, which begins in July.

- Annual Meeting

Adam noted that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 12th and the location will be announced. Spouses are invited at the commission's expense. Middlebury College Prof. Ron Powers will be the keynote speaker.

VII. New Business

Adam reviewed the proposed ACRPC budget for FY05, a proposed amendment to the current 04 Budget and the Proposed Annual Work Plan FY05 – 04/14/04. Adam noted that because the grant we received under project impact ends on June 30, 2004 a significant amount of money must be spent by the end of our current fiscal year. That will leave next years budget dramatically smaller than the current years budget. Project Impact monies have been previously allocated for projects approved three years ago.

Brian Bauer inquired about the Emergency Management grants; specifically, regarding the results, coordination, and integration of these monies.

Adam responded that a number of countywide planning initiatives were underway. For example, he noted that a Countywide Plan with annexes exists for each town currently exists. He also noted the regional planning commission had supported funding the purchase of a mobile Command Post to coordinate countywide efforts in the event of a catastrophe. Protocols, such as Mutual aid agreements, exist within fire departments in each of the towns as well. Efforts are being made to coordinate communities to avoid duplicating equipment purchases.

Karl Neuse suggested that these questions be addressed at an upcoming meeting, and to invite Chief Hanley as one of the speakers to explain the coordination of communities as it pertains to Homeland Security.

Adam will submit a program outlining Incident Command Systems and Coordination for members to discuss at an upcoming meeting.

Regarding the Annual Work Plan, Adam advised that plan elements are ongoing and reflect much of the same scope of work as last year. The Work Plan will be considered for approval at the Commission's next meeting.

Fred Dunnington noted that Middlebury's Town Plan would be updated this year.

Neil Kamman suggested that Brian Bauer's proposal become part of the Work Plan. Adam concurred, noting that other elements will be added as well for consideration.

Fred noted that the anticipated Permit Reform should also be considered as part of the Work Plan, since the process of informing towns will entail a good deal of work and effort on the part of the Commission.

Chairman Don Shall noted that approval of the amended '04 budget and proposed '05 budget will be considered at the next ACRPC meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Bylaws for Ratification:

Adam reviewed the TAC Bylaws for Ratification. Following discussion and debate, Jim Peabody recommended the following clarification to the last sentence in Article II:

-- insert the word 'commission' between 'established' and 'policies.' (established 'commission' policies) and change the word 'decisions' to 'proposals.'

Jim also suggested clearly defining a quorum in Article VI: "shall consist of a minimum of five."

Harvey Smith made a motion to refer amendments/recommendations back to the TAC Committee; motion seconded by Thea Gaudette. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

IX. Member Concerns/Information: none

X. Adjournment: 10: 00 p.m.

Submitted by Peggy Connor