

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 2004

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission held its Full Commission Meeting on November 10, 2004, at the Middlebury College Kirk Alumni Center, with Donald Shall presiding.

ROLL CALL:

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Addison:</i> | Alden Harwood | <i>Orwell:</i> | David King |
| <i>Bridport:</i> | Andrew Manning Edward Payne | <i>Panton:</i> | |
| <i>Bristol:</i> | William Sayre Peter Grant Jim Peabody | <i>Ripton:</i> | |
| <i>Cornwall:</i> | Donald Shall William McQuillan | <i>Salisbury:</i> | |
| <i>Ferrisburgh:</i> | Bob McNary | <i>Shoreham:</i> | |
| <i>Goshen:</i> | Chad Chamberlain | <i>Starksboro:</i> | Elissa Close |
| <i>Leicester:</i> | | <i>Vergennes:</i> | Neil Kamman Renny Perry |
| <i>Lincoln:</i> | Steve Revell | <i>Waltham:</i> | Thomas Yager |
| <i>Middlebury:</i> | Karl Neuse Fred Dunnington Brian Bauer | <i>Weybridge:</i> | Jan Albers |
| <i>Monkton:</i> | Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga | <i>Whiting:</i> | Ellen Kurrelmeyer |
| <i>New Haven:</i> | Allen Karnatz | | |

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

AC Chamber of Commerce:
AC Community Action Group:

AC Economic Development Corp:
Otter Creek Audubon Society: Judy Kowalczyk

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

CHAIR: Donald Shall
VICE-CHAIR: Tom Yager
SECRETARY: Thea Gaudette
TREASURER: Karl Neuse
Renny Perry
William Sayre
Andrea Ochs

STAFF:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Adam Lougee
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/GIS DATA MANAGER: Kevin Behm
EMERGENCY MGT PLANNER/SENIOR PLANNER: Tim Bouton
SENIOR/TRANSPORTATION PLANNER: Garrett Daque
PLANNER/GRANT WRITER: Brandy Saxton
WATERSHED PLANNER: Neil Fraser
OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER: Pauline Cousino

TELEPHONE: 388-3141
FAX: 388-0038

Public Program

Roger Thompson, Regional Office Manager for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) led a discussion on the recent amendments and rule changes proposed by the Agency to the rules governing the disposal of onsite septic. Roger focused on the timeline for implementation of the new wastewater and onsite septic rules and how the changes made in 2002 will affect Addison County, and Vermont in general. The agency's director, Chris Thompson, was also present to answer questions.

Roger reviewed the summary of amendments proposed by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules based on public comments and input, including:

- The definition and scope of work site technicians versus professional engineers may perform;
- Implementation of "amnesty" for two houses on one lot;
- The two-year time travel management zone concept;
- The store and dose concept;
- Grandfathering of town permits, and;
- Grease trap requirements for connections to municipal wastewater treatment plants.

Roger explained that in addition to those amendments proposed above, the Agency will also sponsor 2005 proposed amendments, which will likely include revisions to pressure distribution system requirements, and possible changes related to the definition of treated wastewater. These revisions will include creating a standard, determining if practical designs can achieve the standard, and determining operation and maintenance requirements, including the need for management of decentralized systems by a municipality.

Alden Harwood noted that the Town of Addison has no septic regulations and asked how the new rules will affect the town.

Roger advised that if the town requires property owners to obtain state permits, they will continue to be required to do so, otherwise, residents will be unaffected by the new regulations.

Peter Grant asked if the state is considering approval of alternative systems such as composting toilets.

Roger pointed to a section of the rules that discusses alternative systems, adding that composting toilets can be acceptable, but also noted that regular wastewater systems still needed to be in place to handle gray water.

Tom Yager inquired about existing systems that have failed and replacement criteria.

Citing the variance provision included in Section 8, Roger explained that the cost of a replacement system is one factor in determining what that system should be.

Ed Payne noted that some have characterized the state regulations as social engineering that is anti-sprawl, attempting to force development and housing onto town systems. He added that there appears to be some credence to the characterization since existing systems have been proven effective at a substantially lower cost and still do not appear as available technology in Vermont.

Roger maintained that the environmental conservation agency attempts to separate planning from sewage regulations, and has no built-in bias.

Judy Kowalczyk asked if a list of the approved technologies is compiled in a centralized location for easy access for towns and municipalities.

Roger advised that the agency's website includes a list of the new technologies that have been approved, and will inform Adam of the site who will pass it on to commission members.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting began at 9:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: October 13, 2004

Peter Grant moved to approve the minutes of October 13, 2004. Neil Kamman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Minutes approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Adam distributed a revised Treasurer's Report (copy attached).

Neil Kamman moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Peter Grant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Treasurer's Report accepted as presented.

Committee Reports

Act 250 Committee

Adam noted few new applications, with the exception of an addition proposed by Autumn Harp, and the Garden Center, formerly the greenhouse on Route 7 South.

Economic Development Committee

No meeting held.

Natural Resources Committee

No meeting held.

TAC Transportation Committee

Report tabled.

Utilities, Facilities & Service Committee

Ellen reminded members that the deadline for submitting comments on the committee's report presented and distributed at the October 13th meeting is Friday, November 12th. Judy Kowalczyk asked for an extension of time to submit her comments to the committee. Ellen urged that all submissions be received no later than Tuesday, November 16th since the committee hopes to meet as soon as possible to prepare the final report.

Local Government

(under 'Old Business')

Joint Partners Report:

None.

Delegates/Staff Recognition:

None.

Old Business

VELCO Summary

Don Shall noted a recent newspaper article indicating that wealthy towns are insisting that the power lines be buried. Shelburne has presented a petition to the governor calling for about four miles of the high-voltage line to be placed underground, but VELCO has stated that burying the lines is too costly, opting for tree plantings and lowering some of the pole heights. Fred Dunnington noted that we had also been working very hard on aesthetic issues. Adam advised that the hearings have concluded, briefs are due November 24, reply briefs by December 14, and a decision is expected by mid-January.

Chapter 117 Training

Adam reported that four meetings have been held in the towns of Bristol, Ripton, Vergennes, and Bridport. Turnouts were good in Bristol and Ripton but low in Vergennes and Bridport. Memorandums that discuss the impact of Chapter 117 on each town's zoning ordinances have been or will be circulated shortly. Adam also noted that an ACRPC staff member has been assigned to each town to answer any questions. Individualized training for towns will continue throughout the winter months.

New Business

Municipal Planning Update

Adam advised that the Addison Region receives a \$64,000 allocation of Municipal Planning Grant money based on the number of confirmed towns. This year 11 towns in the region applied for \$124,000 of grants. Adam expects a lot of partial awards. Decisions will be released next week.

Local Government

Thea reported that the committee held a public hearing last week with the Vergennes Planning Commission to discuss the Vergennes Plan. The committee had some minor comments and concerns regarding the specificity of the housing element of the Vergennes City Plan, but felt that overall the plan met the statutory criteria and provided a good vision upon which the City of Vergennes could base its workplans and ordinances. Accordingly, the Committee recommended that the Commission confirm the planning process within the City of Vergennes and regionally adopt the Vergennes City Plan.

Neil Kamman moved to confirm the planning process in the City of Vergennes and to regionally approve the Vergennes City Plan; Ed Payne seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Members' Concerns/Information

None.

Adjournment

Peter Grant moved to adjourn; Jan Albers seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by Peggy Connor