

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission held its Full Commission Meeting on April 13, 2005, at the Middlebury College Kenyon Lounge, with Donald Shall presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs David King
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant Jim Peabody William Sayre	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall Laurel Kritkausky	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Jeremiah Parker
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	Elissa Close
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	Renny Perry Neil Kamman
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Jan Albers
<i>Monkton:</i>	Charles Huizenga Thea Gaudette	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>			

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

AC CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
AC COMMUNITY
ACTION GROUP
OTTER CREEK
AUDUBON SOCIETY:
AC ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CORP
AC FARM BUREAU
OC NATR. RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DIST

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

STAFF:

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

TELEPHONE: 388-3141

FAX: 388-0038

Public Program

The evening marked the second of two public hearings to consider the proposed amendments to the Utilities, Facilities and Services section of the regional plan. Chairman Don Shall opened the floor to comments at 7:40 p.m., noting that all sections of the plan were subject to discussion. Adam Lougee distributed and reviewed responses to the core of comments raised at last month's public hearing. (copy attached)

Ed Payne reviewed his memo regarding his concern with respect to imperatives and goals cited throughout the plan; particularly as they relate to the county's energy resources. Ed contends that the plan should be read to "encourage" more production of resources within the region, such as wind, solar, biomass, "cow power," etc., but without the use of the words "will" and "shall". He suggested citing more attainable goals rather than setting impossible standards, which Ed believes may cause others to reach unjustified regulatory conclusions as they read the plan.

Both Ellen Kurrelmeyer and Jeremy Grip responded that it was the consensus of the committee to set the bar high regarding electric power generation in order to encourage less dependency on outside energy sources. Jeremy added that as a community, we need to learn to be more energy-efficient, and therefore, stands by the goals cited within the plan as laudable and reasonable.

For clarification, Laurel Kritkauskay referred Ed to the plan's introduction wherein a goal is defined as a broad statement, a timeless concept. She added that the objectives relating to energy resources discuss distributing power and encourage conservation, while the recommended actions (7-29 in the draft) further specify the objectives.

Jim Peabody asked how much weight the regional plan carries in terms of the Act 250 permitting process. Adam Lougee explained that the Act 250 commission refers to the regional plan in deciding whether or not to support a project; i.e., reference was made to the plan's language during the recent VELCO legal proceedings. A section of the plan entitled "Significant Regional Impact" serves to determine the impact of a proposed project, and if there exists a conflict with a town plan, in which case an attempt is made to reconcile any differences. However, Adam noted, the regional plan strives to incorporate all town plans.

Karl Neuse moved to close the public hearing; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion to close the public hearing passed unanimously by voice vote. Public hearing closed at 8:20 p.m.

Karl Neuse moved to endorse the committee's amendments as presented; Elissa Close seconded the motion.

Ellen advised that amendment #4 on page 2 regarding Future Land Use concerned the future land use section of the plan and was not part of the motion.

Karl Neuse amended his motion to accept the proposed amendments to the Utilities, Facilities and Services (UFS) section of the regional plan, excluding #4 on page 2. Elissa Close seconded the amended motion. Adam clarified that comment #5, "Other comments from last hearing," referred to clerical errors that had since been corrected and incorporated into the UFS section of the plan. Andrea Ochs moved to include comment #5; Thea Gaudette seconded the motion.

Motion to vote on the Utilities, Facilities and Services section of the regional plan as proposed by the utilities and facilities committee, including #5 the amendments endorsed by the Utilities and Facilities Committee in its January 12, 2005 outline, but inadvertently omitted from the draft distributed last meeting passed unanimously by voice vote. Ed Payne abstained.

Bill Sayre asked that the record show he supported Ed's amendment, noting that goals cited in the plan could be interpreted as mandates that could result in confusion. The plan's intent is to present goals and objectives, rather than having a regulatory effect. David King concurred, adding that the image of the regional planning commission may be at stake with constituents by presenting a plan with goals and objectives that fail to clarify desire versus demand.

Thea Gaudette moved the question. Chairman Don Shall reiterated the motion to accept recommendations of the Utilities, Facilities and Services committee as presented, together with amendments, with the exclusion of #4 regarding Future Land Use, and including #5 the amendments endorsed by the Utilities and Facilities Committee in its January 12, 2005 outline Motion passed by a show of hands: 18 in favor; 6 opposed. Motion

passed.

Neil Kamman moved to debate and discuss amendment #4; motion seconded by Thea Gaudette.

Jeremiah Grip suggested changing the wording to read “or” instead of “and.” [...Vergennes and Bristol, **and** the creative reuse of redevelopment...] David King objected to the word “underutilized” and recommended deletion.

Fred Dunnington moved to delete the word “underutilized” and approve amendment #4 as corrected; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting commenced at 9:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: March 9, 2005

Thea Gaudette moved to approve the minutes for March 9, 2005; Peter Grant seconded the motion. Minutes approved as presented. Motion passed unanimously. (Neil Kamman abstained)

Treasurer’s Report

Adam distributed and briefly reviewed the amended Treasurer’s Report dated April 13, 2005 (copy attached). Adam noted that ACRPC’s finances remain in good order, and anticipates a positive fund balance at the end of the year.

Peter Grant moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Treasurer’s Report approved as presented.

Committee Reports

Local Government

Thea noted that the committee is scheduled to meet with Panton town officials on May 5th. Further information will be made available to committee members shortly.

Act 250 Committee

Fred Dunnington reported that the committee received one land use permit for the Connant farm, and four approvals for the following projects: Kowalski’s, A. Johnson Company, McDonough’s, and the Hayden gravel pit.

Economic Development Committee

Committee chairman Jim Peabody recommended dissolution of the Economic Development Committee, noting it had completed its mandate, re-writing the economic development section of the plan and had not met since that time. He also noted the work done by the Addison County Economic Development Corporation. Don Shall advised the executive committee would consider Jim’s recommendation at an upcoming meeting.

Natural Resources Committee

No meeting held.

TAC Transportation Committee

The next TAC meeting is scheduled in April.

Utilities, Facilities & Service Committee

No additional report.

Joint Partners Report:

Adam advised that the Executive Board is seeking nominations for awards to be given long-standing delegates at the May annual meeting. Members are encouraged to submit nominations to the Board within the coming weeks.

Delegates/Staff Recognition:

The Chair welcomed new delegate Jeremiah Parker from Shoreham. Adam also noted that Richard Keene was recently hired to serve as the new transportation planner.

Old Business

VELCO Summary

Adam noted that the post-certification schedule will be forthcoming, and recommended that ACRPC participate in the process for which monies have been allocated in the budget.

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

Thea Gaudette noted the following slate of nominees to be voted on at the commission's annual meeting in May: Don Shall, Chair; Renee Perry, Vice Chair; Andrea Ochs, Secretary; Karl Neuse, Treasurer; and at large, William Sayre, Elissa Close, and Andrew Manning.

Town Selection of Delegates and Alternates

[noted in delegates/staff recognition]

Report on Program and Location of Annual Meeting

ACRPC will hold its annual meeting May 11th at the Dog Team Tavern in New Haven; beginning at 5:30 p.m. Middlebury College Prof. John Isham will present the keynote address.

New Business

Presentation of Draft Amendments to 2004/2005 Budget

Adam noted a \$45,000 positive gain from last May's budget, and reviewed those programs with budget changes of more than \$10,000 (copy attached): Transportation Northwest Project, River Corridor Grant, Watershed Improvement Project, and Emergency Management (Homeland Security).

Presentation of Draft 2004/2005 Workplan and Budget

Adam reviewed the revenue side of the proposed 2005/2006 workplan and budget (copy attached), and invited questions and comments from members. He noted he would be asking the commission to adopt the proposed budget at our annual meeting in May.

Adjournment

Peter Grant moved to adjourn; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by Peggy Connor