

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Full Commission Meeting was held on July 13, 2005, at the Vergennes Opera House, with Donald Shall presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs
<i>Bridport:</i>	Andrew Manning Edward Payne	<i>Panton:</i>	Mike Hermann
<i>Bristol:</i>	William Sayre Jim Peabody Peter Grant	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary Steve Gutowski	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Jeremiah Parker Elizabeth Golden
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	Elissa Close
<i>Leicester:</i>	Tom Drew	<i>Vergennes:</i>	David Austin
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith Milo Schaefer		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

AC Chamber of Commerce:

AC Community Action Group:

AC Economic Development Corp:

Otter Creek Audubon Society:

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

CHAIR: Donald Shall

VICE-CHAIR: Renny Perry

SECRETARY: Andrea Ochs

TREASURER: Karl Neuse
William Sayre
Elissa Close
Andrew Manning

STAFF:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Adam Lougee

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/GIS DATA MANAGER: Kevin Behm

EMERGENCY MGT PLANNER/SENIOR PLANNER: Tim Bouton

TRANSPORTATION PLANNER: Richard Kehne

SENIOR PLANNER: Brandy Saxton

WATERSHED PLANNER: Neil Fraser

OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER: Pauline Cousino

TELEPHONE: 388-3141

FAX: 388-0038

Public Program

The public program began at 7:40 p.m., and featured a presentation by Maura Collins, the policy analyst for the Vermont Housing Finance Agency. Maura explained that VHFA had just commissioned a study on housing in the state of Vermont, focusing on affordable housing. The study was also broken into county pieces and Maura agreed to speak about the implications of the study for Addison County. Some interesting facts regarding Addison County included:

- Addison is the 4th fastest growing county in Vermont;
- It will grow more than 6% by 2020;
- Many of the people coming into the area will be elderly and the very old portion of the population will grow significantly.
- Vermont is 7th in the nation for exporting young people ages 25 – 44. Unfortunately, Addison is no exception to this statistic and the number of households in that range is expected to shrink.
- Addison County needs an estimated 1149 units of affordable housing to meet its current needs. Not all of these units need to be new houses; some may enter the category by deflating in price.

Bruce Byers asked how we solve these issues. Maura deferred to the planning commission to discuss methods by which it might help to lessen the demand for housing. The program continued for some time regarding how Addison County should address the need for affordable housing. Suggestions ranged from improving the supply by making building easier in certain “growth centers” to a “fair share” allocation among towns in the region.

The public program concluded at 9:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

The business meeting began at 9:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: June 8, 2005

Michael Herman moved to approve the June 8, 2005 minutes. Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion passed nearly unanimously by voice vote, with David Austin of Vergennes abstaining.

Treasurer’s Report

Adam distributed an updated version of the Treasurer’s Report (copy attached), and invited members to contact him with any questions or concerns.

Thea Gaudette moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Bob McNary seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Reports

Local Government

No report.

Act 250 Committee

Adam Lougee reported that the Act 250 Committee had not received any new applications since those noted in the Executive Board minutes attached to the agenda. However, he noted that the committee had met to discuss the Middlebury South Village application. The Committee evaluated the South Village application under the significant regional impact criteria and concluded it could have significant impacts under several criteria. After reviewing each

of the criteria, the committee concluded that the applicant had addressed their concerns. Tim Bouton was asked to draft a letter in favor of the project for submittal at the Act 250 hearing on the application and to present it to the Commission for ratification. Thea moved that the Commission adopt the findings of the Act 250 Committee. Karl Neuse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Natural Resources Committee

At its last meeting, the Natural Resources Committee had discussed the Green Mountain National Forest plan, specifically in the context as to how the proposed changes in preferred alternative E would impact Lincoln, Vermont. The Committee tentatively supported a draft resolution of the Lincoln Selectboard and referred the Selectboard to the ACRPC Executive Board for further action once the Selectboard finalized the resolution. Don Shall noted that the Executive Board had followed up and heard from Will Sipsey on behalf of the town of Lincoln. Unfortunately, at the time of the Executive Board meeting, the Lincoln Selectboard had not reached consensus and no action was taken.

TAC Transportation Committee

Adam reported that a priority list of transportation projects for Addison County would be the focus of next week's meeting.

Utilities, Facilities & Services Committee

Ellen reported that the Committee had met, reconsidered the Utilities and Facilities Section of the plan and made a number of changes that she believed would significantly strengthen the document. She handed out the proposed changes to all present and moved on behalf of the committee that the full Commission restart the hearing process necessary to pass the Utilities and Facilities Section of the regional plan, as amended. Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Adam will follow-up with Brandy and warn the meeting for its first hearing at the next full commission meeting in September.

Joint Partners Report:

None.

Delegates/Staff Recognition:

Don noted that this was our first meeting of the fiscal year and welcomed all new delegates.

Old Business

Further Review on Voting Rights:

Adam summarized that at the last meeting the Commission had voted that the 60% supermajority voting requirements in the bylaws should be interpreted to mean "60% of the delegates actually appointed by their towns at the time of the vote. The commission had remanded the question of what one needed to demonstrate to gain acceptance as a delegate back to the Executive Board. The Executive Board reviewed the question at its last meeting and determined that the bylaws clearly required an annual written nomination from the governing body of each municipality. **Andrea moved that the Commission further codify its interpretation of the voting rules in its bylaws to be based off of 60% of delegates actively appointed by their municipality in writing at the time of the vote. Peter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Committee Membership

Don noted that the package sent to everyone with the agenda included a memo noting the Committees of the

Commission, each committee's current members, and a place for each member to rank their requests for a committee assignment. Adam noted that the Commission's policy is to ask every member to serve on at least one committee and asked each member to please submit their committee requests to him as soon as possible. Adam also noted that the Executive Board would make committee assignments prior to the September meeting and that Adam would distribute the assignments at the September meeting.

VELCO Update

Adam reported that landscape architect Jean Vissering continued to meet with landowners along the corridor in an effort to compile a list of recommendations submitted to VELCO for consideration as mitigation items. He also noted that VELCO had recently reported that they had revised their cost estimates for the NRP from \$120 Million to \$228 Million and noted that he expected the case would be remanded from the Supreme Court to the Public Service Board for hearings on the new evidence. Adam asked the Commission how they would like him to proceed on their behalf. Karl Neuse moved that ACRPC withdraw its support of and participation in the New Haven appeal to the Supreme Court. Bob McNary seconded the motion. Harvey Smith clarified the difference between helping the people of New Haven with the location of the substation and the lines from the appeal in the Supreme Court, but noted that he could not support the motion. Adam noted that although he was not in favor of appealing in the first place, he felt it was awkward to withdraw now because of the remand. After considerable discussion on the issue and over who was authorized to vote, the Commission voted 8-6 in favor of the motion to withdraw from the Supreme Court appeal. Adam noted that he would inform Jim Dumont and then asked what representations he should make on behalf of the Commission during the remand. Thea moved that Adam continue to actively represent the Commission in the remand process pursuant to the guidance contained in the initial resolutions passed by the Commission in December 2003. Harvey seconded the motion. The motion passed with all voting in favor, except Jim Peabody against and Bob McNary, abstaining.

Other

NEW BUSINESS

Welcome New Delegates:

Adam welcomed the new delegates again and asked them to speak with him so he could get them a welcome packet, copy of the regional plan and to introduce them to the staff in the office.

Housekeeping and e-mail addresses:

Adam also handed around a sheet with contact information and asked each delegate or alternate to confirm or correct the information the Commission kept on file for each of them.

Member's Concerns/Information

Harvey noted that the farm tour on agriculture and water quality issues he sponsors each year is scheduled for September 20th and invited any commissioner interested to attend.

Adjournment

Peter Grant moved to adjourn; Jeremy Parker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Submitted by Adam Lougee