

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

## Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission met at the Middlebury Inn on June 14, 2006, Donald Shall presiding.

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**ROLL CALL:**

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs
<i>Bridport:</i>	Andrew Manning Edward Payne	<i>Panton:</i>	Michael Hermann
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant William Sayre	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall Laurel Kritkauskay	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary Stephen Gutowski	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Elizabeth Pidgeon Jeremiah Parker
<i>Goshen:</i>	Bruce Webster	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Elissa Close
<i>Leicester:</i>	Kathleen Ramsay	<i>Vergennes:</i>	Renny Perry
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Karl Neuse	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Jan Albers
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith Milo Schaefer		

**CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:**

*Otter Creek Resource Conservation  
District:*

*Addison County Farm Bureau: Kent Wright*

*Otter Creek Audubon Society: Marcia Parker*

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

**CHAIR:** *Donald Shall*  
**VICE-CHAIR:** *Renny Perry*  
**SECRETARY:** *Andrea Ochs*  
**TREASURER:** *Karl Neuse*  
*Andrew Manning*  
*Elissa Close*  
*William Sayre*

**STAFF:**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** *Adam Lougee*  
**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/GIS DATA MANAGER:** *Kevin Behm*  
**EMERGENCY MGT PLANNER/SENIOR PLANNER:** *Tim Bouton*  
**SENIOR/TRANSPORTATION PLANNER:** *Richard Kehne*  
**PLANNER/GRANT WRITER:** *Jeffrey Owen*  
**WATERSHED PLANNER:** *Neil Fraser*  
**OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER:** *Pauline Cousino*  
**TELEPHONE:** 388-3141      **FAX:** 388-0038

## Public Program

Chairman Don Shall opened the meeting at 7:27 p.m. Adam introduced two members of the Green Mountain National Forest's planning team, ecologist Diane Burbank and forest planner Melissa Reichert, who offered a power point presentation outlining revisions to the new Forest Plan, which became effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. (copy attached). The plan can be viewed in its entirety at the Forest Service website:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa\\_planning/plan\\_revision/index.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl/nepa_planning/plan_revision/index.htm)

Marcia Parker inquired about clear-cutting, a non-sustainable practice.

Melissa Reichert explained that clear-cutting can be sustainable on a small scale for specific reasons to regenerate the forest, but is extremely limited on an annual basis.

Peter Grant pointed out that it was his understanding public response was overwhelmingly against increased motorized use of the forest.

Melissa noted that the plan does not expand the use for motorized vehicles. Although additional trails are allowed, none have been developed. Melissa added that a popular public comment embraced the democratic principle that the Green Mountain Forest is public land, and therefore should not be limited to public use of any kind. One theory is to allow more legal use in order to reduce illegal use of the forest.

Edward Payne asked for clarification regarding percentages cited in the plan that do not appear to add up.

Melissa explained that the numbers overlap as a result of the newly acquired lands being assigned to management areas with significant acreage. Many of these areas could only be designated for trail management, with no real classification.

Stephen Gutowski asked how special forest products are managed, such as wild edibles, firewood, Christmas trees, and nursery stock for private use.

Diane Burbank advised that although the plan provides guidelines for gathering special forest products, the Forest Service recognizes the need for additional funding and staff to fully take advantage of these special opportunities.

Marcia Parker asked if ancient roads had been addressed in the plan.

Melissa explained that attorneys are researching the issue of ancient roads, which would have an impact if the Forest Service had purchased land subject to pre-existing rights of way.

Changes to the draft plan, including re-designated areas, are outlined on the Forest Service website under "Record of Decision," and CD's or hard copies of the plan may be obtained by contacting Melissa or Diane at the Forest Service in Rutland.

The public program concluded at 8:45 p.m.

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## **Business Meeting**

Noting a quorum being present, Chairman Don Shall called the Business Meeting to order at 9:10 p.m.

### **I. Approval of Minutes: May 10, 2006**

**Thea Gaudette moved to approve the meeting minutes for May 10, 2006; Karl Neuse seconded the motion. Elissa Close noted a typo on page 2: "Streetsboro" should read "Starksboro." Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Minutes approved as amended.**

### **II. Executive Board Minutes: May 31, 2006**

Members were asked to direct any comments or questions to Don Shall or Adam Lougee.

### **III. Treasurer's Report**

Adam distributed an updated copy of the Treasurer's Report (copy attached). Adam noted that the end of the fiscal year reflects good account balances, and revenue continues to outpace expenses.

**Andrea Ochs moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

### **IV. Committee Reports**

#### **Local Government**

Refer to "New Business."

#### **Act 250 and 248**

Fred Dunnington cited the list of new applications and decisions previously distributed to delegates.

#### **Natural Resources Committee**

No meeting held. Adam noted that next month's Public Program will include a panel from the agricultural community with focus on renewable energy.

#### **TAC Transportation Committee**

Fred Dunnington referred delegates to the Executive Board minutes for a list of objectives TAC will work toward in developing the transportation section of the regional plan.

#### **Bylaws Committee**

The Bylaws Committee has completed its work, and will distribute copies of the commission's bylaws to delegates at the meeting tonight.

### **V. Joint Partners Report**

None.

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## **VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition**

On behalf of the commission, Chairman Don Shall presented a second Bertha Hanson Community Service Award to Middlebury delegate and ACRPC Treasurer Karl Neuse as a token of ACRPC's appreciation for his 35 years of service.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **Delegate and Alternate Forms**

Adam referred delegates to the attached grid entitled, "Municipal Information Update." An 'X' indicates all requested information has been received by the ACRPC office. Adam asked delegates to speak with the appropriate town official for their town and request that they send in the information.

### **Committee Membership for FY06-07**

A list of last year's committees was distributed (copy attached). Adam noted that with the packet for the next meeting he will be asking each delegate and alternate specific committee requests. He noted that the Executive Board would review committee requests over the summer and make appointments by September's meeting. He asked all to continue on their current committees until new committees are appointed.

### **Distribution of Amended Bylaws and Workplan and Budget 06-07**

Final copies of the amended Bylaws, Workplan and FY06-07 Budget adopted at the annual meeting were distributed to delegates for their review.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **ACRPC's Brownfields Grant Award**

Adam noted that he plans to attend mandatory training June 16<sup>th</sup> to learn more about the Brownfields Grant. He suggested that the commission consider forming a Brownfields Committee for the purpose of selecting consultants and sites.

### **Safe Routes to Schools Grant Awards**

Adam reported that Bristol, New Haven and Middlebury were awarded Safe Routes to Schools grants, three of the four towns that applied. Adam noted that infrastructure funds will follow the educational funds, and that towns may re-apply next year.

### **VOTE on the Confirmation of the Town of Salisbury's Planning Process and Approval of the Salisbury Town Plan**

Thea Gaudette reported that the Local Government Committee met in Salisbury May 1<sup>st</sup> to review the town's planning process and newly adopted Town Plan. The committee recommends confirmation of Salisbury's planning process and approval of the Salisbury Town Plan, which meets statutory requirements.

**Thea moved to confirm the Town of Salisbury's planning process and approve the Salisbury Town Plan; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

## **IX. Members' Concerns/Information**

Don Shall thanked the commission members for the privilege of serving as their chair, and passed the gavel to newly elected Chair Fred Dunnington who will preside over next month's meeting on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **X. Adjournment**

**Karl Neuse moved to adjourn; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Peggy Connor