

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, March 14, 2007

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission met at the Middlebury Inn on March 14, 2007, Fred Dunnington presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant William Sayre	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall Annie Wilson	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Stephen Gutowski Bob McNary Larry Keyes	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Elizabeth Pidgeon
<i>Goshen:</i>	Bruce Webster	<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	Renny Perry
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Jason Oleet	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Brian Bauer Charlotte Rettinger	<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:

Addison County Farm Bureau: Kent Wright
Otter Creek Audubon Society: Mike Winslow
OC Natural Resources:

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

CHAIR: Fred Dunnington
VICE-CHAIR: Elissa Close
SECRETARY: Andrew Manning
TREASURER: Andrea Ochs
Renny Perry
Thea Gaudette
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: Amy Diller
OFFICE MANAGER/BOOKKEEPER: Pauline Cousino
TELEPHONE: 388-3141 **FAX:** 388-0038

Public Program

Tim Bouton offered a presentation on his role as Senior Emergency Management Planner for the Regional Planning Commission. Tim explained ACRPC's Emergency Planning Workplan, the programs offered, what each involves, and the impact of the work and benefits to each community in the region.

Histories of disasters in Vermont include four declared disasters in Addison County since 1996. Tim explained that through advance planning, the effects of floods and storms on our communities can be reduced or eliminated. Emergency plan management includes rapid response plans, school crisis planning, mitigation planning, and critical facilities data collection. Tim distributed a copy of each town's emergency planning status as of March 2007 (copy attached). In an effort to increase the number of towns with plans in place, Tim asked commission members to 1) support the efforts of their local emergency directors; 2) push for more select board involvement; and 3) encourage local zoning that will support disaster planning efforts. Tim also stressed the importance of outreach and training. By coordinating the efforts of all interested parties; i.e., rescue personnel, fire, police, etc. every plan's effectiveness will be maximized.

Don Shall noted the commission's contribution to the operation of the county mobile command post, and asked how often the unit has been used in the region.

Tim advised that the mobile command post has been deployed several times by Middlebury Police Chief Hanley; specifically, last year when the Dog Team Tavern burned to the ground. Although the need may not be great, when it does arise, the mobile command unit is utilized.

Bob McNary asked why it has taken so long for some municipalities to comply with Homeland Security standards.

Tim explained that the responsibilities of select boards have evolved to include a significant number of duties, which has resulted in placing emergency management as a low priority. Many towns in the county elect only a three-member board, many of whom accept the position with preconceived notions of what the job entails.

Harvey Smith asked of the level of preparedness by designated emergency managers for each town in carrying out these plans should a disaster occur.

Tim noted that each town has at least two designated emergency plan managers, coupled with regular and ongoing training exercises for select board members, fire, first response, and all emergency management personnel.

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

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting began at 9:00 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes: January 10, 2007

Thea Gaudette moved to approve the meeting minutes for January 10, 2007; Peter Grant seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

II. Executive Board Minutes:

No action required.

III. Treasurer's Report

Don Shall moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented (copy attached); Thea Gaudette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Adam reported good, strong balances, and revenues running ahead of expenses.

IV. Committee Reports

Act 250 and 248

Ellen Kurrelmeyer reported three minor applications since January: two subdivisions and one for work at the Keewaydin Camp in Salisbury. Ellen noted that a new permit issued to John and Irene Pierce of Ferrisburgh for a 12 unit PRD was approved. She also noted that a Permit to Ti'an Callary's for logging above 2,500 was appealed by the Agency of Natural Resources, the issue being whether or not the District Commission should also extend its jurisdiction to land lying below 2,500 feet.

TAC/ Transportation Steering Committee

Thea Gaudette reported that the steering committee reviewed the fact-finding assessment submitted by the consultants, and will make their report to the full commission in April.

Energy Committee

Harvey Smith reported that the Energy Committee met two weeks ago with the ACoRN group, and are working on a community planning grant. Committee members also met with the Bridport Select Board, who will be applicants in this process. In addition, the Energy Committee is working with the Community Assistant Living program to promote alternative fuels, such as grass-based pelletized fuels. Harvey met with U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders at the statehouse earlier this week to discuss energy initiatives. On behalf of the Energy Committee, Harvey strongly encourages each town's select board to appoint and name an active Energy Coordinator.

Brownfields Committee

Renny Perry reported that committee members met with a potential client on Tuesday, March 13th. If eligible for the Brownfields program, the name will be made public.

V. Joint Partners Report

Adam announced that CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy) is holding a series of meetings during the month of March: 3/14 in Bristol; 3/20 in Vergennes; and 3/22 in Middlebury.

VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition

Mike Winslow introduced himself as the alternate for the Audubon Society.

VII. Old Business

Discussion Regarding Relocating ACRPC Office

Adam reviewed the potential sites being considered as outlined in his February 28th memo to the Executive Board (copy attached). The search continues, and Adam welcomes any suggestions from commissioners, noting that the lease at the present site will expire July of this year.

Western Rail Corridor Planning Project

Adam advised that a federal delegation was able to secure roughly \$500,000 (per RFP) for the western corridor, spanning from the Canadian to Massachusetts border, with planning activities to take place over the next 18 months. (information attached) Addison County will receive \$20-25,000 of the funds, with the impetus of getting truck traffic off the roads and onto rails.

VIII. New Business

Appointment of Nominating Committee & Preparation for May Annual Meeting

Charles Huizenga moved to approve the following slate of officers as recommended by the Executive Board to serve as the Nominating Committee: Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Elizabeth Pidgeon, and Andrea Ochs. Thea Gaudette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Two potential sites for the annual meeting are the Middlebury Inn and Basin Harbor Club. Any ideas for other locales, as well as for keynote speakers for the May meeting are welcome.

IX. Members' Concerns/Information

Charlotte Rettinger asked those present to participate in the United Way Needs Assessment Study (distributed at the meeting) for the purpose of funds allocation. Surveys may also be completed on line by visiting United Way's website at www.unitedwayaddisoncounty.org and clicking on the "survey" link.

Fred Dunnington encouraged commissioners to review the new wastewater rules found on the Agency of Natural Resources website. ACRPC is working with Addison County legislators to schedule a local meeting to discuss the topic. The meeting is scheduled for April 9th at 7:30 p.m. at the American Legion on Wilson Street in Middlebury.

Renny Perry moved to change ACRPC's monthly meeting time from 7:30 to 7:00 p.m., and to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Renny suggested that any agenda items not covered in the designated amount of time be rolled over to the next meeting. Peter Grant seconded the motion.

Elizabeth Pidgeon supported the 7 p.m. meeting time, but opposed adjourning at 9 p.m., noting that oftentimes issues come up that may require extensive debate and discussion. Bob McNary agreed, adding that the commission meets only once a month.

Renny pointed out that a majority vote among members present would determine if a meeting would extend beyond the 9 o'clock hour.

Brian Bauer offered a friendly amendment to the motion: meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and remain open-ended; Renny accepted the friendly amendment. Motion passed by hand vote: 16 yes; 5 no.

X. Adjournment

Charles Huizenga moved to adjourn; Thea Gaudette seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by,
Peggy Connor
