

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

## Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission met at the ACRPC office in Middlebury on September 12, 2007, Fred Dunnington presiding.

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### ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>	Tim Davis	<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs David King
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	Michael Herman
<i>Bristol:</i>	Jim Peabody William Sayre	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary Larry Keyes	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Elizabeth Pidgeon Jeremiah Parker
<i>Goshen:</i>	Bruce Webster	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Elissa Close
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	Renny Perry
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Jason Oleet Steve Revell	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>			

### CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

*AC Chamber Action Group:* Bob Buckey  
*Addison County Farm Bureau:* Kent Wright  
*AC Economic Development Corp.:*  
*Otter Creek Audubon Society:* Marcia Parker  
*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

Landscape architect Jean Vissering gave a slide presentation on the topic of wind turbines, with focus on the visual scenic resource issues associated with wind energy. Jean discussed the variables taken into account when a potential site is considered for wind towers such as project description; visibility (10-mile radius); visual character; scenic resources/sensitive sites; impact assessment; and mitigation potential. Simulated photographs depicted views from various angles, illustrating how wind turbines might appear along the ridgelines at a number of conceivable sites.

Tim Davis asked why all the turbines were white, and if camouflage would appeal more to those who oppose wind turbines for aesthetic reasons.

In addition to requiring lighting for any structure over 200 feet in order to be seen by pilots, Jean explained that the FAA recommends the color white. In her experience, Jean has also found that the general public favors white turbines, as well as their uniform shape, in comparison to cell towers.

Bruce Webster asked if there is a point of elevation at which it becomes detrimental to the equipment.

Jean explained that an elevation of between 2,500 and 3,500 is ideal. Above that, however, it becomes difficult for the turbines to function properly due to wind and icing factors.

Marcia Parker expressed her support for wind energy, and was surprised there hasn't been more public outcry over the appearance of the increasing number of power lines throughout the state.

Jean pointed to the Sheffield project as one that may sway opponents of wind power in Vermont. The project, which has the support of Sheffield voters, would provide 40 megawatts of renewable energy, or enough to power 15,000 average Vermont homes. Jean conceded that wind turbines in the state are a relatively new concept -- an unknown, which people may become more comfortable with in the near future.

The public program concluded at 8:30 p.m.

### PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Adam led the public informational meeting regarding the 2008 Hazardous Materials Brownfields grants awarded to the commission by EPA Region I. ACRPC has received two assessment grants: one for petroleum, and the other for hazardous materials. Adam opened the floor to comments or questions, and encouraged the public to convey any suggestions for potential sites for assessment to the regional planning office.

Jeremiah Parker asked if individual property owners are eligible to apply.

Adam advised that only property owners who are not responsible for any hazardous materials found on their property are eligible. Adam reiterated, however, the program's focus is that of incentive rather than enforcement, and although the grants will fund only assessment, the state has a revolving fund available to eligible applicants for clean-up efforts.

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## Business Meeting

### I. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2007

**Andrea Ochs moved to approve the meeting minutes for July 11, 2007; Bob McNary seconded the motion.**

Thea Gaudette noted a correction regarding the Transportation Steering Committee report, which will be "released" to the commission in October.

**Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Minutes approved as amended.**

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## **II. Executive Board Minutes:**

No action required.

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

Adam distributed an updated copy of the Treasurer's Report (copy attached), and noted that the monthly budget report reflects the months through June of the past year. Adam anticipates a surplus of approximately \$10,000, and advised that a draft audit will be presented to the Executive Board for review by the end of September.

**Thea Gaudette moved to accept the treasurer's report; Elizabeth Pidgeon seconded the motion. Treasurer's report unanimously approved by voice vote.**

## **IV. Committee Reports**

### **Act 250 and 248**

Ellen Kurrelmeyer reported that the committee received the following four new applications: 1) from Jason Barnard to build a 2,000 sq. ft. garage on a 1.36-acre parcel on Burpee Road in Bristol to house a commercial soldering operation; 2) from Phelps Engineering on behalf of Raymond Danyow, Jr. to create 4 additional lots in the Booth Woods development in Vergennes; 3) from Trudell Consulting Engineers on behalf of Lathrop Ltd. Partnership for the operation of a 31-acre sand and gravel pit on a 65-acre parcel in Bristol; and 4) from the Lodge at Otter Creek in Middlebury for a 20,000 sq. ft. expansion. Approvals included a permit amendment to Middlebury College to construct an 8,000 sq. ft. addition to its service building for a new biomass gasifier and boiler; a permit amendment to Kenneth and Gail Pope to construct one 3-bedroom residence on property previously subject to Act 250 jurisdiction off Route 74 and 22A in Shoreham; a permit to Maryann Grennon to build a 2,000 sq. ft. garage on a 1.36-acre parcel on Burpee Road in Bristol to house a commercial soldering operation; and a permit to James McGrath to subdivide a single-family house lot off a 10-acre lot on Route 7 in New Haven previously subject to Act 250 jurisdiction.

### **Brownfields Committee**

Adam reported that the committee had met via email and agreed to go forward with Phase II (quality assurance) of the Silver Towers project.

### **Energy Committee**

Bob McNary reported that the committee recently toured the Audet's Blue Spruce Farm for a demonstration of the \$1.3 million digester system, which produces energy to 400 houses. Committee members later met to discuss goals for the upcoming year. Bob reminded delegates to contact Elizabeth Pidgeon if their town has not yet appointed an Energy Coordinator.

### **Local Government**

See below under "New Business."

### **Natural Resources**

Andrea Ochs reported that the committee met prior to the full commission meeting to continue work on the water section of the Workplan. The committee will change its meeting date to the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m., and will next meet October 16th. Andrea also noted that the committee's comments regarding the Middlebury Rail Spur project will be made part of the record.

### **TAC Transportation Committee**

Thea Gaudette reported that the committee has reviewed the transportation element of the plan. The first draft has been edited, and will be distributed to members of the steering committee this week.

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## **V. Joint Partners Report**

None.

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

Fred Dunnington recognized Bob Buckeye, representing the Addison County Community Action Group; and Tim Davis, the newly appointed delegate from Addison.

## **VII. Old Business**

### **Delegate and Alternate Forms**

Adam noted that, with the exception of Goshen and Salisbury, all towns have responded regarding delegate forms.

### **Committee Memberships for FY2007-2008**

Fred advised that the Executive Board met previously to the commission meeting to discuss committee appointments. Subject to their approval, appointments will be announced at the next full commission meeting in October.

### **Other**

Regarding the state's septic and wastewater rules, Steve Revell advised that this week the Legislature passed the amended regulations, and the rules will be filed next week.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **Local Government**

#### **Vote on Confirmation of Goshen's Planning Process and Adoption of Goshen Town Plan**

Thea reported that the Local Government committee met with Goshen Town officials on August 20th, and recommend approval and acceptance of the Goshen Town Plan.

**Thea so moved; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Goshen Town Plan approved and accepted.**

#### **Executive Board Goals for the Year**

Adam distributed a summary of outreach goals from the Executive Board's staff meeting held this month (copy attached), and invited delegates to direct any additional suggestions or comments to his office.

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

None.

## **X. Adjournment**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Peggy Connor

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