

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission met at the ACRPC office on November 14, 2007, Fred Dunnington presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>	Tim Davis	<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	Michael Herman
<i>Bristol:</i>	Jim Peabody Peter Grant	<i>Ripton:</i>	
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Donald Shall Ralph Teistheid	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Larry K eyes Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Elizabeth Pidgeon
<i>Goshen:</i>	Bruce Webster	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Jim Lockridge
<i>Leicester:</i>	Kathleen Swinnington Ramsey	<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Jason Oleet	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Brian Bauer	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Nadine Barnacle
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charles Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau: Kent Wright
Addison County Economic Development Corp.:
Otter Creek Audubon Society:
Otter Creek Natural Resources:

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

CHAIR: Fred Dunnington
VICE-CHAIR: Elissa Close
SECRETARY: Thea Gaudette
TREASURER: Andrea Ochs
Renny Perry
William Sayre
Bruce Webster

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

Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Director Adam Lougee led delegates through a discussion of the Draft Transportation Plan which he distributed at the meeting. Adam focused on the Executive Summary of the Plan, which he hopes will be a very clear statement of the transportation needs and goals within the region. After a brief discussion, Adam noted that hearings would be in January and then February or March with a vote scheduled not later than May's Annual Meeting. In response to several questions/concerns, Adam noted that the public hearings will be well publicized in advance of the event and held at an inviting forum that will comfortably accommodate members of the public that choose to participate.

The public program concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Business Meeting

The Business Meeting commenced at 8:10 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes: October 10, 2007

Thea Gaudette moved to approve the meeting minutes for October 10, 2007; Peter Grant seconded the motion. The Commission approved the minutes by a unanimous voice vote.

II. Executive Board Minutes: October 24, 2007

No action required.

III. Treasurer's Report

Adam distributed an updated Treasurer's Report, noting revenues and expenses running about even and a good balance on the books.

Don Shall moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Renny Perry seconded the motion. The Commission approved the Treasurer's Report unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Committee Reports

Act 250 and 248

Jim Peabody reported that the committee had met on October 10, 2007 just after the Full Commission to review whether or not the proposed Lathrop Gravel Pit in Bristol had a "Significant Regional Impact" as defined by the Regional Plan. Jim reported that after a significant amount of discussion, the committee voted to recommend that the Full Commission find that the pit does not have any significant regional impact. Therefore ACRPC should refrain from participating in the Act 250 hearing. **Following his report, Jim moved that the Full Commission accept the committee recommendation and find that the Lathrop Gravel Pit application in Bristol be found to have no significant regional impact. Bob McNary seconded that motion.** To begin discussion, Fred Dunnington, the Chair, recognized the several citizens from Bristol attending the meeting. Fred acknowledged that they were here to try to persuade the full commission to disregard the Committee recommendation and request that the full commission participate in the hearing and oppose the application for the gravel pit. Prior to allowing them to present their reasons for significant regional impact, Brian Bauer and several other commissioners expressed their concern that the applicant was not present at this hearing to defend their application.

Thea Guadette made a motion to table the discussion until the Old Business section of the program. After some discussion, the Commission voted to table the motion until the old business section of the meeting.

Brownfields Committee

Renny Perry noted that the committee will be meeting in the last week of the month to select a consultant to help them with the second grant, for Hazardous Materials, which the Commission received notice of this past summer.

Energy Committee

Harvey Smith reported that Netaka White, of the Vermont Bio-fuels Association, spoke as the featured speaker at the last public meeting the Energy Committee held. Harvey also noted that the Committee planned to publicize the work it had been doing in the Town Reports and that to date the Committee had recruited enough local energy coordinators to bring the number in the region to 14 coordinators. Bruce Webster reported on the Vermont Electric Futures Workshop he attended.

NOTE: Energy Coordinators are still needed for the following towns: Panton, Ripton, Starksboro, Vergennes, Waltham, and Weybridge.

Local Government

Thea reported that the Towns of Orwell and Monkton have requested regional approval. As soon as plan analyses have been completed, hearing dates will be scheduled.

Natural Resources

Andrea reported the committee met on Tuesday, October 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the ACRPC office and completed work on drafting the water section of the Regional Plan.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Thea reported that the TAC had held a public hearing with the Transportation Board as the first half of its last meeting and then reviewed and approved the draft Regional Transportation Plan for presentation to the Full Commission at the second part of its last meeting.

Transportation Plan Steering Committee

See the presentation above.

V. Joint Partners Report

None.

VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition

Jim Peabody recognized the efforts of the emergency response community, including ACRPC's own Tim Bouton, at the train derailment in Middlebury.

Adam noted that Jeff Owen had recently announced he would be leaving the Commission's staff to return to school to pursue a Master's Degree in International Affairs at Virginia Tech's Alexandria campus. Adam thanked Jeff for his work with the Commission and invited all to thank him for his work for the commission and wish him well in his new pursuit.

VII. Old Business

Act 250 Committee recommendations concerning the Lathrop Gravel Pit in Bristol. Fred re-opened the discussion on this issue by requesting that Jim Peabody recite his motion, based on the recommendation of the Act 250 Committee once again. Jim moved on behalf of the Committee that the Commission find that "No Significant Regional Impact" be found concerning the Lathrop Gravel Pit in Bristol. Bob McNary seconded the motion. Next,

Kevin Harper, one of the interested parties from Bristol, prepared to speak to request that the commission find significant impacts and oppose the application. However, prior to Mr. Harper speaking substantively, Renny Perry moved that the Commission table this discussion until the next meeting. Bruce Webster seconded that motion. After a brief discussion concerning timelines to action, all moved in favor of tabling the discussion until the December Full Commission Meeting. The Commission directed Adam to put this on next month's Full Commission agenda under "Old Business", at which time the neighbors could speak. The Commission also directed Adam to contact both sides of this issue and invite them to attend.

Orientation Materials for New Members: Adam noted that the books were available and that any one interested in receiving one should see him after the meeting.

Other None.

VIII. New Business

Champlain Bridge Update Adam noted that study committees were just organizing the plan concerning how to reconstruct the bridge. He noted that Rick Kehne, ACRPC's Transportation Planner was on the Steering Committee as were several other people from Addison County. Adam also noted that the bridge was in very poor shape.

Jim Peabody moved that ACRPC strongly oppose any shut down of the Champlain Bridge because of its economic, development, workforce and tourism importance to the Region. Thea seconded the motion.

Renny noted that this issue was better suited to ACRPC's Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), which is meeting next month on this issue. After a brief discussion, Jim Peabody voluntarily withdrew his motion.

Western Transportation Corridor Study Adam explained that this study is just in its beginning stages. The Steering committee is being recruited and the consultant, Parsons Brinkerhoff, has just been hired. ACRPC will receive \$25,000 over the next couple of years to participate.

Grants Outreach Adam pointed to the information in this month's newsletter concerning all the good grants for community infrastructure available. He noted that he had long desired to structure staff to do more grant-writing for towns and he encouraged Commissioners to convey they grant information that they see in the newsletter to their Selectboards or Planning Commissions.

IX. Members' Concerns/Information

Bob McNary requested that if staff is doing work in a town that they notify the delegate from that town of what they will be doing so that the delegate can participate.

Jason Oleet expressed a renewed interest in a rail bypass around Middlebury in light of the recent derailment in town. Fred Dunnington noted that the Town of Middlebury was also extremely interested in making sure that all of the hazardous materials going through Middlebury be made safer. He noted that the town was working with the Railroad on track upgrades. He also noted that rail is still far safer than trucks.

Elizabeth Pidgeon asked that the local government committee extend a helping hand to Shoreham concerning the adoption of its zoning regulations.

X. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by,
Adam Lougee