

# *Draft*

## Addison County Regional Planning Commission Meeting

*Wednesday Jan 9, 2008*

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission held its monthly meeting on January 9, 2008 at its offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury with Fred Dunnington, Chair of the Commission presiding.

### **ROLL CALL:**

<i>Addison:</i>	Tim Davis	<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne	<i>Panton:</i>	
	Mike Gamache		
	Mark Pumiglia		
<i>Bristol:</i>	Jim Peabody	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
	Peter Grant		
	Don Shall		
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Ralph Teitsheid	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	
	Michael Drescher		
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette	<i>Whiting:</i>	
<i>New Haven:</i>			

### **CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:**

*Addison County Farm Bureau: Kent Wright*  
*Addison County Economic Development Corp.: Bill Townsend*  
*Otter Creek Audubon Society:*  
*Otter Creek Natural Resources: Jonathan Chamberlain*  
*Addison County Community Action Group:*

### **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

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## Plan Hearing

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**Call to Order:** 7:38 pm. Fred Dunnington, the Chair of ACRPC called the meeting to order. He welcomed all, noted the first item on the agenda was a public hearing on the Sections of the Addison County Regional Plan currently being re-written, Transportation and Future Land Use, introduced Richard Kehne, ACRPC's Transportation Planner, and then turned over the floor to Rick asking Rick to provide a brief description of the plan update process.

### **Transportation Plan: Public Hearing #1**

Rick introduced the general process for re-adoption of the Regional Plan and introduced Beth Isler, a consultant from RSG, who helped the Steering Committee write the Transportation Section of the Plan.

Beth provided an overview of the Plan itself and described the work involved in updating the Plan. She noted she helped the committee identify of current conditions, current problem areas, freight movements and safety issues. She noted that from the data available, the Committee then worked to create the vision, goals and recommendations developed in the Plan. After her description of the Plan, Beth opened the meeting to questions.

#### Questions and Answers:

1. Peter Grant: Many people are using the collector systems as arterials. This is a problem. Is this addressed in the Plan? Rick responded that the Plan recognized this problem, especially along the Monkton/Bristol Road and noted the plan made several suggestions regarding moving the traffic back onto arterial roadways.
2. Jeff Nelson addressed important issues like getting freight to rail and the need to keep projects moving.
3. Stu Johnson noted that he felt the plan addressed the needs of the road foremen and municipal maintenance.
4. Will this plan regulate truck-rail transfers? Rick responded, No, the Plan does not have that kind of power. Regulation may have some place in this issue, but the Plan is primarily a planning document that recommends decisions that make sense.
5. A question was asked about the cost effectiveness of bus use. Adam responded that ACTR, the local transit provider, provides service at costs that meet or exceed the targets that VTrans sets for rural providers.
6. Bob McNary, the delegate from Ferrisburgh, noted that the plan called for roundabouts in several locations in Ferrisburgh on Route 7 and stated that Ferrisburgh opposes roundabouts on US 7.
7. Don Shall expressed his gratitude to the steering committee for their efforts on the plan update.

8. Adam Lougee asked the commission whether it felt it should include an additional map in the Future Land Use Section of the Plan depicting state designated downtowns, villages and growth centers. Kevin Behm answered that the current Future Land Use Map consists of a composite map that generalizes land use into 4 areas for the purpose of creating a regional map: Village & Comm/Ind, High Density Residential; Rural & Agricultural, and Forrest & Conservation/flood plain. He has not created a map highlighting specific state designations. The Commission instructed staff to create a new map of the designated areas and suggested that the Executive Board create the text describing the map.
9. Regional Significant Resources - Kevin also noted that other maps in the Future Land Use Section had not been modified, like the Significant Regional Resources map. Peter Grant suggested that the Weybridge Bat Cave label be removed from the map to make it more difficult for people to find this dangerous cave. There was another question about how the locations on the map were selected. Kevin said that they have been there for many years, but we can invite the towns to come and comment on these. Other than Peter's suggestion, the Commission noted that no changes were warranted in the Regionally Significant Resources Map at this time, but the map may warrant attention in the future.
10. Don Shall asked that all of these maps be date stamped.
11. Ralph Teitsheid suggested that Industrial areas need to be clearly outlined so that businesses coming in know where they can locate.

There being no further comments, Fred Dunnington adjourned the public Hearing at 9:11 p.m.

After a short intermission Fred reconvened the Commission's business meeting.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

Fred solicited a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Kent Wright noted two corrections to the minutes. He noted both the alternates from Bridport's names were spelled incorrectly. He explained the correct spelling for the delegates from Bridport – Mike Gamache & Mark Pumiglia.; **Don Shall moved to adopt the minutes as amended, Jeremy Grip seconded the motion, which the commission approved unanimously.**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Adam reported that revenues currently exceed expenses, which are running at about 53% of projections at about ½ way through the year. He concluded that the Commission had positive cash flow and was in good financial shape.

A Commissioner asked if the new facility meeting space cut costs. Adam responded that yes, meeting space costs have dropped by about \$1,000 per year, but this doesn't quite offset increased in rent. After no further questions, **Fred Dunnington moved for approval of the Treasurer's report, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

### **Committee Reports:**

1. **Local Government Committee.** Thea Gaudette reported that the Committee will review Middlebury's Town Plan on January 14<sup>th</sup>, Monkton's Plan on February 19<sup>th</sup>, and Orwell's Plan on the 20<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Energy Committee.** Bob McNary gave the Energy Committee Report. He noted that the committee was active on a number of projects. They have been running an educational series and anticipated the next showing in February, they had created a procedure to support local energy production, and they had recruited a number of Town Energy Coordinators. Adam added that Bridport and ACRPC would be receiving a \$29,000 grant for a market study of the region's ability to support a biomass energy pellet manufacturer in the region and that the Energy Committee, the Town of Middlebury Carp's joint partners, MAGWAC, ACoRN and Middlebury College have put together an Energy Expo and trade show for energy conservation on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. **Brownfields Committee:** Adam noted that the work to assess and largely remediate Silver Towers in Ripton was completed and that two other assessments were underway.
4. **Natural Resources Committee:** Ed Payne noted that the committee is currently re-writing the Natural Resources Section of the Regional Plan and that the committee had completed the Goals & Policies. He noted that the committee was working to reduce the bulk of the document. Kevin also noted that water and agriculture are being reviewed currently and invited comments.

### **Old Business:**

**Strategic Visioning and midyear budget review.** Adam reported that the Executive Board is focusing on long range goals and putting together a Strategic Planning Process for the Commission. He invited anyone with comments or ideas, to please get them to him. Adam also reported that the budget is right where it should be. He noted that Dept. of Health funding to address pandemic planning will not happen this year, but that he was confident that staff could replace that item in the budget with other funding.

### **New Business:**

**Update on new staff planner:** Adam noted that he was interviewing this week, and hoped to have a hire by the next meeting.

### **Members Concerns:**

None.

### **Adjournment:**

Upon a motion and second duly made, the Commission voted to adjourn at 9:45p.m.  
Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kehne