

# *Draft*

## Addison County Regional Planning Commission Meeting

*Wednesday March 12, 2008*

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission held its monthly meeting on March 12, 2008 at its offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury with Fred Dunnington, Chair, presiding.

### **ROLL CALL:**

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	Andrea Ochs David King
<i>Bridport:</i>	Mike Gamache Mark Pumiglia Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Jim Peabody Peter Grant Bill Sayre	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip Ted Dunakin
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Mary Dodge Don Shall	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Bob McNary	<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	Jim Lockridge
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Brain Bauer	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charlie Huizenga	<i>Whiting:</i>	
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith		

### **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

## Plan Hearing

**Call to Order:** 7:31 pm. Fred Dunnington, the Chair of ACRPC called the meeting to order. He welcomed all, noted the first item on the agenda was the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing for the updated drafts of the Transportation Section, and Future Land Use Section of the Addison County Regional Plan currently being re-written, introduced Richard Kehne, ACRPC's Transportation Planner, and then turned over the floor to Rick.

### **Transportation Plan: Public Hearing #2**

Rick briefly outlined the general process for re-adoption of the Regional Plan and opened the floor for questions and/or comments.

Questions and Answers:

1. Bob McNary: Comment. Page 2, Energy & Environment #1: The plan mentions the necessity to eliminate dependence on foreign oil. Bob stated we need to eliminate dependence on fossil fuels in general. **The reference is on Page 2, Energy & Environment, #1. Fred queried the commission member present, and there was full consensus to make the following change: "foreign oil" should be changed to "fossil fuels". It was also noted by Fred and agreed upon by the commission members present to make the change and that this is not considered a substantial change.**

There were no further comments.

### **Future Land Use Section**

Fred opened this discussion and gave the floor to Adam. At the last meeting, it was noted that the designated growth centers were not included on the maps. This has been corrected on Map 8-4 and included in the packet of revised maps which were handed out prior to the meeting.

*Comment & Suggested Change:* **Andrew Manning noted that the written reference to the maps needs to be changed from 3 to 4. It was also noted by Fred and agreed upon by the commission members present to make the change and that this is not considered a substantial change.**

*Q:* What is a "Significant Resource"? Adam responded that "regionally significant resources" are areas identified in the regional plan on Map 8-2. One of the criteria that ACRPC uses to determine whether an Act 250 application will have a "substantial regional impact", as defined by the regional plan concerns its proximity to or impact upon a regionally significant resource. Adam noted that the text identifying one of the regional resources as the "Weybridge Bat Cave" was removed from Map 8-2, as per the request made at the January meeting.

*Q:* Jim Peabody asked whether Map 8-2, the Regionally Significant Land Use Map was too small to use as a template for regulations. Kevin responded that the map sufficiently identifies the resource. He further noted that the boundaries are established in land records, and that the maps are accurate. Adam noted that more detail is laid out in the Natural resource section, and

that these maps are not intended to be exact locators...they are intended merely to show the approximate location of each resource deemed to be of regional significance.

**Kevin suggested that the following language be added to the Plan to give some clarification: “This map serves to generally identify significant regional resources. The largest scale maps available should be used to review actual boundaries of the significant regional resources should the Commission choose to participate in a regulatory proceeding”. The commission agreed with this change and did not consider this to be a substantial change.**

No other comments.

Fred closed the public hearing at 8:09pm.

### **Program: Peak Oil**

Adam said that due to a scheduling problem, this agenda item needed to be moved to the June meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Fred asked for a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. Thea moved the minutes; Andrea Ochs seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Vote: 18-0-0.

### **Treasurer’s Report:**

Bob McNary moved the Treasurer’s Report, Charlie Huizenga seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Vote: 18-0-0.

### **Committee Reports:**

1. **Act 250 applications** were outlined by Ellen Kurrelmeyer.
2. **Energy Committee.** Bob McNary gave the Energy Committee Report. He thanked Elizabeth Pidgeon, Adam, ACoRN, and all participating parties for their participation in the Energy Expo. This was a huge success. Fred thanked the Energy Committee for their involvement with this event.
3. **Local Gov’t Committee:** This report was postponed until the “New business” portion of the meeting.
4. **Natural Resources Committee:** Andrea noted that the last meeting was postponed and will meet later in the month. The Committee is currently re-writing the Natural Resources section of the Regional Plan. The Water Resources element is complete. The committee is almost done with the Agricultural Section and forestry is also now under way. Bob McNary asked Andrea what was happening with the OMYA Rail Spur where it crosses the wetland. Andrea noted that the Committee had reviewed the EIS and found that it accurately reflected the project proposed. Fred said that the Town continued to meet with Sue Scribner (Vtrans) and Jed Marrow (McFarland-Johnson) and that they were continuing to address floodplain issues. Fred commented that concerns had been raised that the trestles across the wetland would result in the retention of flood waters...so this is being studied. Bob McNary asked why the transload facility can’t be located on the OMYA land...and not on the Foster

property. He was concerned about the loss of agricultural land. Kevin and Fred said that this issue was considered in the EIS process, and that the current proposed location does indeed have the least overall impact.

Peter Grant asked whether the Natural Resources Section of the Regional Plan will address the extraction of Earth Resources? Adam responded that it would, but the Committee had not yet begun to work on that section.

5. **TAC Report:** Rick noted that currently the TAC is focused on the annual Project Prioritization Cycle.
6. **Joint Partners Report:** Adam noted the Joint Partners sponsored the Energy Expo with the RPC and Ted Shambo in particular had done a lot of good work.
7. **Staff/Delegate Recognition:** Adam recognized **Elissa Close** and her efforts for the town and region. Adam stated that Elissa felt she had to resign because of some current health issues. Fred noted that the commission accepts her resignation with regret and appreciates her service.

### **Old Business:**

**Nominating Comm:** Fred noted that prior to our annual meeting the commission created a nominating committee to propose a slate of officers to run the Commission. The Executive Board proposed that the commission elect Andrea Ochs, Charlie Huizenga, and Ellen Kurrelmeyer as a slate for the nominating committee. Thea moved the slate, which was seconded by Bob McNary and unanimously approved. Vote: 18-0-0.

### **New Business**

*Confirmation & Approval of the Town of Middlebury Town Plan.* Thea Gaudette, Chair of the local Government Committee noted that the committee had reviewed the Middlebury Town Plan and confirmed that Middlebury is actively engaged in a planning process at a public hearing held January 14, 2008. On behalf of the Committee she moved that the Regional Planning Commission confirm the town's planning activities and regionally approve its Town Plan. Bob McNary seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Vote 18-0-0.

*Confirmation & Approval of the Town of Monkton Town Plan.* Thea Gaudette, Chair of the Local Government Committee noted that the committee had reviewed the Monkton Town Plan and confirmed that Monkton is actively engaged in a planning process at a public hearing held February 19, 2008. On behalf of the Committee she moved that the Regional Planning Commission should confirm the town's planning activities and regionally approve its Town Plan. Bob McNary seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Vote 18-0-0.

*Confirmation & Approval of the Town of Orwell Town Plan.* Thea Gaudette, Chair of the Local Government Committee noted that the committee had reviewed the Orwell Town Plan and confirmed that Orwell is actively engaged in a planning process at a public hearing held February 20, 2008. On behalf of the Committee she moved that the Regional Planning Commission should confirm the town's planning activities and regionally approve its Town Plan. Peter Grant seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Vote 18-0-0.

Peter Grant asked for an update on when staff would review Bristol's Town Plan. Adam responded that the deadline for this work is far in the future and that no work has yet been done on it.

**Bertha Hansen Award**

Fred asked for nominations for the annual Bertha Hanson Award. These need to be submitted to Adam before the last Wednesday in April (April 30, 2008).

**Other Comments:**

Fred: The ACTR report shows 10% growth in ridership increases over 1 year. Jim Moulton should be commended for his superb leadership and for achieving this kind of growth.

Andrea Ochs asked Adam about progress on finding a new Land Use Planner. He said that no acceptable candidates have been found yet. Adam is concerned that funding is getting tighter, and that hiring is getting more difficult. Fred said that it is worth taking the time to find someone who will be a good match. Fred asked if any towns were currently in need of assistance that wasn't forthcoming due to the staff shortage. Andrea Ochs commented that Orwell does need help with their floodplain plan. Adam stated that he would be assisting the town with this in the absence of a new staff planner.

**Adjournment:**

Upon a motion and second duly made, the Commission voted to adjourn at 9:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Kehne