

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, November 10th, 2010

ACRPC held its monthly Meeting at its offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on November 10th, 2010 with Thea Gaudette, the Chair, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Andrew Manning
Ed Payne
Mike Gamache

Panton:

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Bristol: Peter Grant

Salisbury: Bryan Jones

Cornwall: Ralph Teitschied

Shoreham:

Starksboro: Jan McCleery

Ferrisburgh:

Goshen: Chad Chamberlain

Vergennes: Alyth Hescocock

Leicester:

Waltham:

Lincoln: Steve Revell

Weybridge:

Middlebury: Pat Peters

Whiting:

Monkton: Thea Gaudette
Charlie Huizenga

New Haven: Harvey Smith
Bruce Zeman

Orwell:

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:

Addison County Economic Development Corp:

Otter Creek Audubon Society:

Otter Creek Natural Resources:

Addison County Chamber of Commerce:

Harvey Smith

Margaret Lowe

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Thea Gaudette

Vice-Chair: Harvey Smith

Secretary: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

Treasurer: Jeremy Grip

At Large: Steve Revell

Andrew Manning

Bill Sayre

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee

Assistant Director/GIS Manager: Kevin Behm

EM/Senior Planner: Tim Bouton

Transportation/Senior Planner: Richard Kehne

Planner: Claire Tebbs

Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino

Planner: Kevin Lehman

PROGRAM: Thea opened the meeting at 7:35p.m. Adam welcomed our guest for the evening, Jon Kaplan, the Manager of the Agency of Transportation's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program within the Local Transportation Facilities Section, to discuss the 2009 International Scan of Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Mobility in which he participated. Jon travelled with a national team to view bike/ped infrastructure and operations in 5 European countries. The objectives of the team were to:

1. Improve bike/ped mobility and safety;
2. Incorporate best practices into the Safe Routes to Schools program;
3. Understand methods used to track usage; and
4. Understand the safety research and codes adopted by other countries.

The team visited 16 cities of all sizes ranging from London, England (big) to Nokosov, Denmark (small). All experienced winter conditions to one degree or another and were similar to Vermont in that manner. All had been working on policies to shift usage from automobiles to bicycles or walking since the early 1970's, or roughly 40 years. All viewed it as an integrated policy combining transportation, with wellness and environmental policy (global warming). In Copenhagen, Denmark, bicycles account for 37% of commuters. All policies had worked gradually over time.

Finding 1: Both safety and awareness increase as the numbers of riders and walkers increase. Increased usage allows for more investment into the system supporting shared use and heightened driver awareness.

Finding 2: Implement policies that give primacy to bikes and walkers. Jon highlighted a number of policies and improvements promoting biking walking primacy over driving. They included physical improvements: like lanes and barriers; policies, like high parking fees; good signage; widespread public education programs; monitoring; enforcement and the sharing of information.

Jon returned with several recommendations for Vermont and the United States in general:

1. Promote policies that give Bike/ped primacy (Make them the 1st choices for transportation)
2. Deploy engineering measures like lanes and barriers supporting bike/ped;
3. Create low-speed streets in village and urban areas;
4. Integrate biking with public transit;
5. Promote childhood traffic safety and education;
6. Promote unified safety campaigns (bikes and trucks).

Of these, Jon felt the most promising for Vermont would be:

1. Creating more pedestrian refuges at wide intersections;

2. Promoting passive detection of pedestrians at cross-walks to improve walk time/traffic flow;
3. Creating a traffic garden for training
4. Collecting, analyzing and publicizing bike crash data by region;
5. Implementing bike/transit coordination

Jon opened the session to questions and answers and answered questions from the audience for about half an hour. A little before 9:00 p.m. Thea thanked Jon for attending and closed the program section of the meeting. **For a more detailed look at the Bike/Ped Scan, ACRPC recorded this program on Middlebury Community Television where it is available for public viewing on Channel 15 or can be downloaded from their website.**

9:00 p.m. BUSINESS AGENDA:

Thea called the Business Meeting to order to address the agenda before the Commission.

- I. **Approval of Minutes: October 13, 2010** – Thea asked for a motion on the Minutes. Peter Grant moved the adoption of the minutes of October 13, 2010; Harvey Smith seconded the motion. The Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote with unanimous approval.
- II. **Executive Board Minutes: October 27, 2010** - Thea explained that the Draft Executive Board Minutes are provide for information only, and asked if anyone had any questions. No one asked a question on the Executive Board minutes.
- III. **Treasurer’s Report** – Adam reported on the Treasurer’s Report dated November 10, 2010. He reported that our cash balance is still strong. He also reported that the unaudited financial statement for last fiscal year, ending June 30, 2010 shows expenditures slightly less than revenues. Adam noted that the Commission’s audit is completed and that he will ask for a vote later in the meeting. Once we close the books for last year, we will get you more current financial statements. Steve Revell moved acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report. Charlie Huizenga seconded the motion. The motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.
- IV. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Act 250.** Ellen Kurrelmeyer noted there had been no Act 250 activity within the region within the past month.
 - b. **Local Government.** Thea requested that the commission postpone the Local Government Committee report until new business.
 - c. **Natural Resources.** Kevin noted that the committee will have a working draft of the Natural Resources section of the plan ready for full commission review shortly.

- d. **TAC.** Andrew Manning reported that the TAC did not meet.
 - e. **Energy.** Harvey noted that the Committee met on October 25th at 7:00 pm. He noted the Commission reviewed the Section 248 review process with members of the public and discussed the Cross-Pollination Application and the commission's involvement in that application. He also noted that the Committee would meet on the 3rd Monday of November, but would change times to accommodate members.
 - f. **Brownfields.** Jeremy Grip reported the committee had not met.
- V. **Joint Partners Report:** Harvey noted that Economic Development had been working on agricultural infrastructure.

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition Project Highlights:** Adam presented staff's project highlights for the month. The report is attached as Exhibit A.

VII. **Old Business:**

1. Bi-State Park Proposal At the September meeting Adam handed out a Memorandum of Understanding prepared by the group interested in creating a bi-state park with New York at the Champlain Bridge. He asked people to review it and noted we would discuss it and vote on whether ACRPC should sign the Memorandum at the October meeting. Commissioners asked a number of questions which Adam could not answer and requested that he find answers and bring them to the commission. Adam reported that he had not yet been able to answer the commission's questions satisfactorily and requested that the item be tabled until next meeting.
2. New Planner. Adam introduced Kevin Lehman to the Commission and asked Kevin to say a couple of words about himself. Kevin noted he lived in Middlebury and was pleased to be a part of the commission staff. He has extensive experience in energy development, project management and marketing and looks forward to meeting every one.
3. Other- None.

VIII. **New Business:**

1. Approval of ACRPC FY 2010 Draft Audit: Adam gave a summary report of the audit. He noted that we had no adverse findings and that the audit confirmed that ACRPC increased its assets slightly over the year. Adam offered to answer questions. Peter Grant moved

approval of the audit. Andrew Manning seconded the motion, which the commission approved unanimously.

2. Confirmation of the planning process and approval of the Ripton Town Plan. Thea noted that the local government committee had held a hearing in Ripton reviewing the Ripton Plan and confirming the planning process. As a result of the meeting the Local Government Committee recommends that ACRPC confirm the planning process and approve the town plan in Ripton. Thea moved to adopt the committee's recommendation. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion unanimously.
3. Other. None.

- IX. Members Concerns:** Charlie Huizenga noted that he would have liked to attend the Energy Weatherization workshop going on tonight and next month, but they conflicted with our meeting. Adam noted that we had sponsored that presentation with ACoRN and would ask them to change the date in the future. Charlie also noted that our meetings were running long and that we needed to start on time and stop questions and have the speaker finish on time.

Finally, **Charlie noted the new Dollar Store proposed for Ferrisburgh and asked Rick to check and make sure it only had access from the Monkton Road, as that area of Route 7 is already a high accident location.**

- X. Adjourn:** There being no further business, Peter Grant moved to adjourn the meeting; Ed Payne seconded the motion and Thea adjourned the meeting at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee
Executive Director

Monthly Highlights for Commissioners – November 2010

Tim: Tim's primary focus for the coming month will be Basic Emergency Operation Plans. See New Business on the agenda.

Kevin B: Kevin notes he and Claire finished a natural resources 604B project this month involving reviewing and commenting on Zoning Ordinances in Middlebury, Bristol and Vergennes concerning storm water. We have shared those comments with the towns reviewed. ACRPC also published several brochures regarding what individuals can do to reduce their storm water impacts and distributed them to municipalities.

Rick: Rick states that he will have the RFPs for the 3 bike/ped projects the TAC is funding with ACRPC's TPI funds in Lincoln, Bristol and Starksboro completed by the end of the month.

Claire: Claire notes she is busy working with Orwell, Cornwall, Salisbury, Leicester and Waltham on Municipal planning grant applications, which are due at the end of the month.

Adam: Adam chose to highlight the Challenges for Change process. It is largely complete. The RPC's worked within the process, used as a chance to discuss performance based contracts and came through relatively well. We should have a 17 month contract beginning February 1, 2011 next week. Although this legislative session could still change funding, in addition to the 18 % cut over the past two years, contracting should be complete. We will invite our legislators to discuss the good work we do next month in December.

