

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, February 9th, 2011

ACRPC held its monthly Meeting at its offices at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on February 9th, 2011 with Thea Gaudette, the Chair, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Andrew Manning
Ed Payne

Panton:

Bristol: Peter Grant

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Salisbury:

Cornwall: Ralph Teitscheid

Shoreham:

Ferrisburgh:

Starksboro: Richard Warren

Goshen: Chad Chamberlain

Vergennes: Alyth Hescock

Leicester: James Maroney

Waltham:

Lincoln:

Weybridge:

Middlebury: Fred Dunnington
Pat Peters

Whiting:

Monkton: Thea Gaudette

New Haven:

Orwell: Andrea Ochs

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:

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

Land Use Planner: Claire Tebbs

Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino

Regional Planner: Kevin Lehman

Thea Gaudette, Chair of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission (“ACRPC”) opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

PROGRAM: Adam welcomed our guest for the evening, Jim Moulton, the Executive Director of Addison County Transit Resources (“ACTR”). Jim used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight ACTR’s mission and benefits. He gave specific examples of people who use ACTR’s services:

1. Seniors accessing companionship or medical care;
2. Seniors receiving meals;
3. Local workers saving money on commutes;
4. Snow Bowl skiers/riders
5. Kids to school; and
6. Local people accessing the regions downtowns.

Jim discussed how ACTR’s enabling these activities creates a healthy community. Next, Jim discussed ACTR’s growth over the last 10 years. Its rides have more than doubled. Its fleet has almost doubled. Its number of employees and volunteer drivers has also increased substantially. Its workspace has not. Jim stressed ACTR’s need for a larger facility and previewed the location of the new facility ACTR plans to build on Creek Road in Middlebury over the next two years. Jim then answered Commissioner’s questions concerning ACTR’s routes, activities and plans. **A complete copy of Jim’s Powerpoint is available on ACRPC’s website for those desiring more details on the presentation.**

Thea and the Commission thanked Jim for his presentation.

8:35 p.m. BUSINESS AGENDA:

- I. Approval of Minutes: December 12, 2010** – Thea asked for a motion on the Minutes. **Andrea Ochs moved the adoption of the minutes of December 12, 2010; Peter Grant seconded the motion. The Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote with all voting for approval except Richard Warren who abstained.**
- II. Executive Board Minutes: December 29, 2010 and January 26, 2011** - 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 February 12, 2011. He reported that our cash balance is still strong. He noted that for one of the first times he had to report that revenues lagged expenses and offered that he would be reviewing billing closely and hoped to get back on track by the next meeting. Adam offered to answer any questions. **Andrea Ochs moved acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report. Peter Grant 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 only one Act 250 application within the last month. CVPS has applied to extend power lines on Lake Street in Shoreham.
- b. **Local Government.** Thea reported the committee has a meeting in Shoreham later in the month.
- c. **Natural Resources.** Kevin noted that the committee had finished a draft of the Natural Resources Section of the Addison County Plan and that it would present it to the full commission later in the evening.
- d. **TAC.** Andrew Manning reported that the TAC had met and discussed project priorities.
- e. **Energy.** Jeremy reported that the committee had met on December 13, 2010 and again in January. Jeremy reviewed each of the projects that the Commission is working on under its State and Federal Contracts. He specifically requested and received approval from the commission to use the commissions Cow Power funding to perform a study on the Brisson Farm.
- f. **Brownfields.** Jeremy reported that the Committee had met with Joe Hayes of ECS. Joe serves as the project Manager for ECS on the Middlebury Union High School Legion Field's project in Middlebury and discussed the results for that project with the committee. We still have funds left and are looking for projects. The Committee will meet again in March.

V. Joint Partners Report: None provided.

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. Draft Natural Resources Section of the Plan. Andrea Ochs, the Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, announced that the committee had completed its work on the Draft of the Natural Resources Section of the Addison County Regional Plan and had distributed a copy to each Commissioner prior to the meeting. Thea asked for any comments on the natural resources section of the plan as drafted. Steve Revell had submitted a comment requesting Kevin to call him so they could sit down together and he could help Kevin correct some of the names on the gravel pits and mineral resources map. James Maroney commented ACRPC's plan should not invest or condone investing money in to large dairy farms that support production as he believes overproduction is killing farming in the state and contributing to the pollution of Lake Champlain. James also noted that ACRPC's plan should adopt policies designed to reverse the financial losses dairy farms are currently incurring and should control the pollution of the lake. James formally requested that his letter of April 12, 2010 be resubmitted to the Natural Resources Committee for its consideration. Kevin Behm acknowledged that the Committee had the letter and would consider it as James had requested. Adam suggested

that James would aid the committee by re-writing his comments in a form the Committee could consider adding to the plan or not. A general discussion of policy ensued, but no specific comments to the committee, other than the fact that the Committee must recognize agriculture's contribution to tourism resulted. Thea closed the discussion, thanked the Commissioners for their comments and re-stated that anyone desiring to make further comment should submit their comments to the Natural Resources Committee prior to their next meeting on February 21, 2011. At that meeting, the committee will review all comments made, make decisions as to which it would like to adopt into the Plan and which to reject. It will then re-submit the plan, comments received and how it addressed all comments back to the full commission for further discussion and a vote regarding going to public hearing.

2. Agricultural Series. Adam noted that the Commission had not received the grant that it had requested to hold an agricultural series, but noted that the meeting next month would help to address some of the water quality issues raised at the September Agricultural Program. The Addison County Riverwatch Collaborative will present the data they have collected on the health of the region's watersheds, compare and contrast results, note trends and take questions. Adam also noted that Kevin and Claire are working with ACORN to create a map of the farms database they have developed depicting farms that sell produce locally in the community and desired to have a retail presence. Adam noted the map shows incredible diversity and will be included in the Addison Independent's local food supplement. Adam noted that he was also working with the Manomet Center for Sustainability to followup on the Center's Community Report.
3. Other- None.

VIII. New Business:

1. Self-assessment Survey. Adam noted that ACRPC was asking all commissioners to take an online survey to help it complete some of the promises it committed to during the Challenges for Change Program. The survey is an opportunity for us to improve our work. Adam urged all the commissioners to take the time to complete it and noted he would have a computer available at the office if any needed help.
2. Other. None.

IX. Members Concerns: None.

- X. Adjourn:** There being no further business, Peter Grant moved to adjourn the meeting; Andrew Manning seconded the motion and Thea adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee
Executive Director

Monthly Highlights for Commissioners – February 2011

Tim: Tim and Kevin B. will be meeting with a Middlebury College class that has been studying phosphorous loading in Lake Champlain. Both staff brainstormed ideas that students could approach as group projects. Accepted ideas include a review of Town Plans as they address water quality policies and charting development trends in our floodplains since 2003. Both studies, if done well, will help us in future town planning efforts.

Kevin B: Kevin notes he Completed planning maps for Weybridge and Panton. Also, completion of a buildout analysis and corridor study for Orwell. Preparation of draft wildlife tracking maps for Salisbury

Rick: Rick will start updating road classifications in the region for VTrans. About every 10 years VTrans requests these updates to reflect changing road conditions.

Claire: Claire noted she is working on Leicester's re-write of its Town Plan and a map of local farms (that supply the region with local food) for local farms and food guide coming out in March.

Adam: Adam would like to highlight a planning grant we will be receiving to form Broadband Technology Teams and to create a plan to help increase the usage of broadband technology within the region. ACRPC will receive approximately \$20,000 to create the plan over the next 18 months. The purpose of the plan is not to identify new infrastructure needs. Others (Vermont Center for Geographic Information and the Vermont Telecom Authority) are focusing on infrastructure. This will focus on usage by all types of user groups. Can you think of how using technology would improve your school's curriculum, improve local government efficiency, or empower home based businesses? This grant is about making "apps" work for Addison County.

Kevin L: On Jan. 19th ACRPC co-sponsored a presentation by the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation on the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program. The program was hosted by the ACORN Energy Co-op. I conducted outreach about PACE and the event to all town selectboard members, town treasurers, and energy coordinators. The event was attended by an engaged audience of approximately 50 home owners, bankers, energy coordinators, business owners, town selectboard members and treasures. PACE has the potential to overcome a key financial hurdle for many homeowners who wish to invest in efficiency retrofits or renewable energy systems. By tying the PACE assessment to the property and by amortization it over a long period, PACE provides an attractive way for some homeowners to pay for these projects. But there are many factors towns must consider as they make a determination about whether or not to move forward on PACE. This presentation was one step in this process.