

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, June 8, 2011

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at its office at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on June 8, 2011 with Thea Gaudette, the Chair, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport:

Ed Payne

Panton:

Ripton:

Bristol:

William Sayre
Garland "Chico" Martin

Salisbury:

Shoreham:

Cornwall:

Starksboro: Richard Warren

Ferrisburgh:

Goshen:

Vergennes:

Leicester:

James Maroney

Waltham:

Lincoln:

Weybridge:

Middlebury:

Fred Dunnington
David Hamilton

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer
Jonathan Heppell

Monkton:

Thea Gaudette
Wendy Sue Harper

New Haven:

Orwell:

Andrea Ochs
Clyde Park

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:

Kent Wright

Addison County Economic Development Corp:

Otter Creek Audubon Society:

Margaret Lowe

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

William Sayre

Andrew Manning

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

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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PROGRAM: ACRPC Regional Plan Amendment and Re-Adoption Public Hearing Comments June 8, 2011

Thea Gaudette, ACRPC Chair opened the public hearing at 7:30.

James Maroney – JM stated that he has many issues with the Natural Resources Section of the Plan as written, however he summarized his issues and offered to respond with more detail in writing. JM’s objection is that the draft plan is written with a bias towards ‘conventional dairy farming’ which he states by definition pollutes the lake. ‘Conventional dairy farming’ relies on Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAPs) to protect water quality and he feels they are not effective. In addition, conventional dairy farming is designed to encourage overproduction and therefore depresses prices. The combined effect of lake pollution and depressed prices is not sustainable and should not be presented as a ‘plan’ for the future. He was asked to provide the written comments he offered.

Chris Robbins – CR stated that the stormwater section (specifically p.13) needs improvement and she has submitted text to Adam that she would like included in the section. This section has also been identified as needing improvement by the Addison County River Watch Collaborative.

Wendy Sue Harper – WSH offered to provide 2010 data on organic farmers in Addison County. The current table (p. 25) is dated 2008.

Richard Warren – RW stated that he was in agreement with JM’s comments.

Ed Payne - EP stated that he feels the draft plan makes note of the regulations that are in place to reduce pollution and to mitigate past nutrient management practices that in fact were recommended by the government. In addition, some farm operations are poorly managed for water pollutants, but municipalities and businesses also contribute to lake pollution.

Andrea Ochs – AO stated that as Chair of the Natural Resources Committee she felt that the Committee tried to address agriculture and water pollution in a forward-looking manner while acknowledging the economic value it provides to the county. Conventional farming was not singled-out but rather all farming was expected to follow state water quality regulations. She felt the document will likely be revised in the future, but is more comprehensive than the previous version and now includes air quality and scenic resources.

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting



James Maroney – JM clarified that he does not blame the farmers for their predicament, but this document encourages unsustainable practices that make no money for the farmer and pollutes the lake. The plan should encourage a more positive future.

Richard Warren – RW questioned the encouragement (p.69 #1) of the ‘Use Value Tax Program’ which he considers to be unsustainable and will likely be revised or removed. Under Action #6, he also questioned whether solar equipment is considered ‘scenic’. Under Actions #10 & #11, which both address outdoor lighting; he recommended that safety issues of outdoor lighting be given high priority. In addition, he stated that the impacts of moving vehicles have not been addressed in the plan at all. He is familiar with ATV impacts on a stream crossing on his property and he has very little recourse to prevent the erosion.

Thea Gaudette thanked everyone for their comments and stated that the Natural Resources Committee will review each comment. She closed the public hearing at 8:10.

BUSINESS MEETING:

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

I. Approval of Minutes: April 13, 2011 – Thea asked for a motion on the Minutes. **Fred Dunnington moved the adoption of the minutes of April 13, 2011; Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion. The Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote with all voting for approval, except Richard Warren who abstained.**

Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting: May 11, 2011 – Thea asked for a motion on the Minutes. **Fred Dunnington moved the adoption of the minutes of May 11, 2011; Ellen Kurrelmeyer 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: April 27, 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. The Executive Board did not meet in May.

III. Treasurer’s Report – Adam reported on the Treasurer’s Report dated June 8, 2011. He reported that our cash balance is still strong. He noted that receivables were also good, but revenues still lagged behind expenses and the gap he had closed last month had widened again to a margin greater than he was comfortable with. However, Adam noted that invoices had not yet been sent out for May, while all bills of the month had been paid. Additionally, many of the quarterly billing programs had not been billed. He 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. **Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report. Bill Sayre seconded the motion. The motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was approved by voice vote with James Maroney abstaining.**

IV. Committee Reports:

- a. **Act 250.** Ellen noted that the commission had received two new applications this month.
 1. On May 25, 2011, the State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation filed for an amendment to the Act 250 permit for the Middlebury Airport requesting to install a 30 foot automated weather observation system at the airport. On June 7, 2011 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued a notice that they will treat this as a minor application and approve the application without hearing unless a party files a request for hearing prior to July 1, 2011.
 2. On June 2, 2011, Middlebury College applied for an amendment to its Act 250 permit to build a 1,000 sq. ft. house on its campus in Middlebury for its solar decathlon house after Middlebury returns the house from the Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Competition next fall.

Ellen also noted the district Commission issued the following approvals:

1. On May 13, 2011 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued an administrative permit to William Houston for a boundary line adjustment between two commercial parcels in the City of Vergennes on Panton Road.
 2. On May 15, 2011 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued a land use permit to Middlebury College to reconstruct Kohn Field and install 4 exterior lighting units for the field on its campus in Middlebury.
- b. **Local Government.** Thea reported the committee did not meet this month, but would hold a meeting in New Haven on July 7th.
 - c. **Natural Resources.** The Committee will review the comments from tonight's public hearing and any others presented in writing at its next meeting at the end of June and present any changes at the next public hearing.
 - d. **TAC.** Thea reported that the TAC had not met in May, but had a meeting with the Vermont Congressional delegation planned for next Wednesday.
 - e. **Energy.** Adam reported that the committee had a meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday at which it would discuss its on-going projects. Adam noted that ACRPC had recently converted the Prius it had purchased to a full electric option and that an article would be forthcoming in the Addison Independent. He also noted that the committee had recently conducted a very well attended roundtable with Energy Planners from most of the communities in Addison County.
 - f. **Brownfields.** Adam referred the Commission to Kevin Lehman's monthly highlights, which outlined the projects the committee was currently working on. He noted that the committee would meet as those projects progressed and our consultants had work to report.

V. **Joint Partners Report: Neither Adam or Harvey made a report.**

- VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition Project Highlights:** Adam presented staff's project highlights for the month. He referenced the highlight he included, the work ACRPC had done on the Lake Champlain Byway and the approximately \$200,000 grant the

Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh had just received for a new visitors center. The Monthly Highlights are attached as Exhibit A. Fred Dunnington also noted the presence of David Hamilton, a new delegate from Middlebury and welcomed him to the Commission.

VII. Old Business:

1. Town Selection of Delegates and Alternates: Adam noted that many towns had not returned their selection of delegates and alternates for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011. Adam read a list of towns that had not responded to ACRPC's request for appointments and urged all delegates/alternates in attendance to speak with their selectboards to renew and report their appointments.
2. Other: None.

VIII. New Business:

1. Committee Assignments. Adam noted that ACRPC requests that each of its delegates or alternates serve on at least one committee in order for the commission to more efficiently address its workload. He noted that he would be sending all delegates and alternates a form for each of them to complete requesting committee assignments. The form includes descriptions of the work each committee does and when it meets, if it has a regular schedule. He requested that all delegates/alternates complete the form requesting their preferred committees. He also informed them that the Executive Board would review their requests and make committee appointments for the September full Commission meeting.
2. Programs for Next Year. Adam noted that he tries to schedule programs for each meeting to inform and engage the Commission and requested that any commissioners with suggestions regarding programs could make them now, or bring them to him at any time during the year. One Commissioner noted that a discussion of marketing Vermont products and the Vermont brand would be interesting. Bill Sayre requested that the Commission ensure that with every program both sides of an issue are given equal opportunity to participate. Richard Warren noted that he enjoyed the meeting tonight without the program that allowed the commissioners to speak among themselves and not feel hurried conducting their business and he encouraged Adam to plan for more meetings like tonight's.
3. Other. The Commission noted that the Roll Call needs to be included in the internet package.

IX. Members Concerns: Ed Payne thanked the commission for the work that Tim Bouton had done for the Town of Bridport during the recent flooding events.

- X. Adjourn:** There being no further business, Andrea moved to adjourn the meeting; Fred seconded the motion and Thea adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm. The delegates in attendance gave Thea a round of applause and thanked her for her 3 year term as chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee
Executive Director

Monthly Highlights for Commissioners – June 2011

Tim: During May and June much of Tim's time is being taken up with flooding issues associated with the lake. ACRPC held a joint meeting with Municipal Emergency Management Directors and Zoning Administrators to discuss flood damage as they relate to rebuilding damaged properties and have scheduled a meeting for the public about shoreline stabilization techniques to be held July 13th. Additionally, Two "Incident Command System for executives" classes are being offered: Shoreham on 6/16 and New Haven on 6/23.

Kevin B: During May, Kevin coordinated with Adam and Kevin Lehman to have the office Prius converted to a plug-in hybrid. The car is now being used by staff for work travel and we are tracking the usage. Kevin also worked with Claire on Waltham's commercial district build-out demonstration. This was well received by the Waltham Planning Commission and Claire is continuing with the design standards aspect of the project. Summer water quality sampling began in May and Kevin is assisting the Addison County River Watch Collaborative with coordination and sample check-in.

Rick: We have two local roads that were selected for 100% state funded improvements because of the high occurrence of accidents along these roads. The Plank Road is the first. I have been coordinating a site visit with all 4 towns (Bristol, Waltham, Ferrisburgh, and New Haven) and VTrans. The second is Big Hollow Road in Starksboro. If any of the commissioners have particular feedback on safety issues they have observed or encountered along either of these roads, please have them pass it on to me ASAP.

Claire: Claire is currently completing a LID resource poster for Addison towns to display in their town halls/libraries etc. This poster will include techniques, case studies and resources for Vermont towns, developers and residents to capture and slow storm water. The poster will be available this summer and in a smaller format to download from our website.

Adam: This month Adam is pleased to highlight the Byway program. ACRPC has spent a considerable amount of time building the Lake Champlain Byway. Earlier in May VTrans announced that the Rokeby Museum in Ferrisburgh would receive a grant for \$200,000 to help it construct a visitor welcome center and exhibit space at the museum. I also spent time this month helping the Maritime Museum, also in Ferrisburgh apply for a grant for the next round to interpret and market some of the historic resources on the byway, with an emphasis on the War of 1812 which will have its 200th anniversary next year. We are also currently working with the Chamber on promotional material and with towns to highlight their intrinsic resources in a new plan to be released later this year.

Kevin L: Kevin helped to shepherd three projects into the Brownfields program during the month of May. ACRPC has contracted with an environmental consultant to do site assessments to determine the nature and extent of contamination at the Fire Station and Recycling Shed in Whiting, the One Dollar Market in Middlebury, and the Connor Homes facility in Middlebury. These assessments are an important step not only in getting the sites cleaned up, but in paving the way to redevelopment of the properties.