

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, July 13, 2011

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at its office at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on July 13, 2011 with Harvey Smith, the new Chair, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport:

Ed Payne

Panton:

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Bristol:

Peter Grant

Salisbury:

Shoreham:

Cornwall:

Ferrisburgh:

Kevin Rooney

Starksboro:

Goshen:

Vergennes:

Leicester:

James Maroney

Waltham:

Lincoln:

Steve Revell

Weybridge:

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

Middlebury:

Fred Dunnington
David Hamilton

Monkton:

Thea Gaudette
Wendy Sue Harper

New Haven:

Harvey Smith

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:

Kent Wright

Harvey Smith

Margaret Lowe

Paul Wagner

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Harvey Smith

Vice-Chair: Jeremy Grip

Secretary: William Sayre

Treasurer: Fred Dunnington

At Large: Steve Revell

Andrew Manning

Ellen Kurrelmeyer

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 July 13, 2011

Harvey Smith, ACRPC Chair, opened the public hearing at 7:30. Adam Lougee, ACRPC Director, gave a brief procedural explanation of where we are in the adoption process. Adam noted that delegates had received two meetings to comment on the plan prior to its release to the general public. Last month was the first public hearing. This meeting is the second of two warned public hearings. He noted that the minutes of the last public hearing were contained within the minutes of last month's meeting and were included in everyone's packages. Kevin Behm added that ACRPC had also received written comments following the meeting from Delegate James Maroney of Leicester. Adam noted that the Natural Resources Committee (NRC) had reviewed all comments submitted at the last hearing. They have not incorporated them into the plan yet. Therefore, tonight's meeting was for new comments only. The NRC will incorporate all appropriate public comments into the proposed plan after this hearing at its July 26, 2011 meeting. Kevin will make a report noting the comments (including written comments) and the NRC's response to those comments. He will send this out to all commissioners with a revised plan and a notice of another public hearing to be held at our September meeting. Hopefully, after that hearing, ACRPC will bring the proposed plan to the commission for a vote in October or November.

Kevin Rooney – KR, as a new member of the Commission, asked about the authority of the Regional Plan. Adam briefly explained the Commission's legal standing in Act 250 and 248 proceedings and the plan's value as a guiding document for development in the region. Town planning commission's often refer to the Regional Plan for example language.

James Maroney – JM noted the lack of any public attendance at the meeting. There is obviously a gap in the public awareness of the value of the Plan as a guiding document. He acknowledged that official notices had been sent out – however, the public lack of interest should be addressed.

What can be done? JM also noted that he had sent a lengthy letter to Adam at the conclusion of the last public hearing on June 8th. He asked whether the NRC or anyone else had been forwarded a copy. Adam stated that the Committee had received the letter and had discussed the content. The Committee will review the comments from the 2 public hearings and incorporate accepted comments into a report for the Commission. JM stated that he was available to the NRC if they had any questions on his comments.

Steve Revell – SR noted that previous reports from the NRC had included the comments offered on the Plan as well as the response of the NRC. James' letter to Adam will be a part of the public record and his comments will be available. Adam stated that JM's comments

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



and the committee's response will be included in the report. KB further stated that the NRC did review the entire text of the comments offered by JM.

James Maroney – JM rephrased his offer to explain – he would like to be called to explain his comments. Harvey noted that committee meetings are open and JM is welcome to attend the NRC meeting.

Margaret Lowe – ML noted that the next NRC meeting is the 26th of July at 7:00 at the Commission office.

Wendy Sue Harper – WSH asked where additional comments could be sent. Harvey stated that comments could be sent to Adam or Kevin. KB stated that the public meeting notice was included in the newsletter and agenda mailing that was sent to over 300 members of municipal boards county-wide.

Margaret Lowe – ML stated that perhaps most people interested in the Draft Natural Resources were OK with the language and had no need to attend.

Peter Grant – PG added that no one seems to come to public meetings unless there is controversy, like a gravel pit.

Ed Payne – EP just entered the meeting – Harvey asked if he had comments – EP stated that he is on the NRC and felt the committee did a fair job of drafting and reviewing comments on the plan.

Paul Wagner – PW, member of the Otter Creek Natural Resource Conservation District, stated that he has been a conventional dairy farmer for 40 years. He felt that buffer strips required under the BMP's should be the same regardless of the number of animal units on a farm. He noted that small farms can be larger polluters than big farms and its discrimination for small farmers to get a free pass. Buffers standards should be the same for all farms.

Jeremy Grip – JG noted that there is a potential for more pollution loading with more animal units on a farm.

Thea Gaudette – TG stated that on page 3 'Monkton Pond' is the correct name. However, there is a 'Cedar Lake Association'.

Wendy Sue Harper – WSH suggested that a recommended action be added to the Forest Section (page 38) supporting towns having a municipal forest. Also under Forest Resource Goals and Objectives (page 36 & 37, Goal B) she asked that an objective addressing the importance of the forest economy be added similar to a statement in the agriculture section.

Harvey Smith closed the Public Hearing at 8:10 and stated that the Natural Resources Committee will review each comment.

BUSINESS MEETING:

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

- I. **Approval of Minutes: June 8, 2011** – Harvey asked for a motion on the Minutes. Peter Grant moved the adoption of the minutes of June 8, 2011; Fred Dunnington seconded the motion. After a brief discussion including two small amendments to the minutes, **The Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote with all voting for approval, except Andrew and Jeremy who abstained.**

- II. **Executive Board Minutes: June 29, 2011** - Harvey explained that the Draft Executive Board Minutes are provide for information only, and asked if anyone had any questions. Jeremy noted that he could not have presented an item since he was not present. No one asked another question on the Executive Board minutes.

- III. **Treasurer’s Report** – Adam reported on the Treasurer’s Report dated July 13, 2011. He reported that our cash balance is still strong. He noted that receivables were also good, but revenues still lagged behind expenses. He noted that the gap had closed considerably since his June report. However, Adam noted that quarterly invoices had not yet been sent out for June. He offered that he would be reviewing billing closely and hoped to get back on track by the end of the year and that next meeting he expected to be able to report that at year-end the revenues would meet expenses. Adam offered to answer any questions. **Fred Dunnington moved acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report. Steve Revell seconded the motion. The motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was approved by voice vote with all in favor.**

- IV. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Act 250.** Ellen noted that the commission had enjoyed some activity this month.
New Applications:
 1. On June 15, 2011 VTrans applied for an Act 250 permit to rebuild Route 7 north of Ferrisburgh and south of Ferry Road in Charlotte.
 2. On July 1, 2011, Eastview at Middlebury applied to amend its Land Use Permit to increase the hours of construction during this construction season to allow it to complete more of the project, citing 5 years of appeals and delays as the reason justifying the need to build in the early evenings 5:00-7:00 p.m. during the week and from 8:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

3. On July 6, 2011 Ferrisburgh Realty Investors, LLC filed an application to extend its construction start and construction completion date from August 2011 and August 2014 to August 2014 and August 2017 respectively citing the poor housing market.
4. On July 12, 2011 the A Johnson Company submitted an application for a 43planned unit housing development on Schoolhouse Road in East Middlebury.

Approvals or Denials:

1. On July 7, 2011 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued a land use permit to the State of Vermont, Agency of Transportation for an amendment to the Act 250 permit for the Middlebury Airport allowing them to install a 30 foot automated weather observation system at the airport.
2. On July 11, 2011 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued a land use permit to Middlebury College for an amendment to its Act 250 permit allowing it to place its 1,000 sq. ft. solar decathlon house on its campus in Middlebury after Middlebury returns the house from the Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Competition next fall.

Other:

On July 11, 2011 the Public Service Board issued an Order and Findings granting a Certificate of Public Good under section 248 of Title 30 to the Cross-Pollination Solar Farm on Route 7 in New Haven.

Kevin Rooney, a new delegate from Ferrisburgh asked how ACRPC had participated in the Route 7 Act 250 application since it was a main artery to the region. Andrew Manning noted that the TAC had supported this re-paving in Charlotte because it was important to the region. Andrew responded that the TAC had supported this project. Adam added that he would ask Rick Kehne to specifically look at the plans for the project.

- b. Local Government.** See New Business.
- 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 July and present any changes at the next public hearing.
- d. TAC.** Andrew Manning reported that the TAC held a meeting with the Vermont Congressional delegation in June and had also received an update on the Champlain Bridge's progress.
- e. Energy.** Jeremy reported that the committee had met yesterday, expanded in its size by several energy coordinators and discussed a number of promising topics including energy

audits for Cornwall and Bristol, the RFP for the Charging station for the electric car, the Neighborworks residential energy conservation program and a town street lighting project.

- f. **Brownfields.** Jeremy noted that the committee had not met, would do so soon to get project updates.
- V. **Joint Partners Report:** Harvey noted that ACEDC had been working on its strategic plan. Adam noted that we were due for a meeting with ACEDC and suggested either the **3rd or 4th week in August at 4:30 in the afternoon.** All agreed it would be a good idea, but stressed the need for a strong agenda.
- VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition Project Highlights:** Adam presented staff's project highlights for the month. He referenced the highlight Rick included noting that if any town wanted traffic counts this summer they should speak with Rick ASAP. The Monthly Highlights are attached as Exhibit A. Adam noted the presence of Kevin Rooney, a new Delegate from Ferrisburgh and David Hamilton, a new delegate from Middlebury and welcomed them both to the Commission. **David commented that our Broadband Telecom Plan should include a section planning for more telecommuters in the county as it constituted a growing portion of the population.**

Ellen Kurrelmeyer asked Adam about the paving on Route 30 in Whiting, noting it was not done as promised. **Adam stated he would speak with the Project manager.**

VII. **Old Business:**

- 1. Town Selection of Delegates and Alternates: Adam noted that he had received information back from most towns and had spoken with all others. He would update the placards and create orientation booklets for new members for our September meeting. In the meantime, he invited new members to speak with him about the Commission's work.
- 2. Other: None.

VIII. **New Business:**

- 1. Committee Assignments. Harvey 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 the package included 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. Annual Meeting - Programs for Next Year. Harvey noted he wanted to get comments while the meeting was fresh in everyone's minds. After a brief discussion the commission reached the consensus that programs designed to get us out into the region and support the speaker before the meeting are welcome. Adam will try to arrange an appropriate topic, perhaps natural resource related since we will have spent a lot of time passing that portion of the plan this year.
3. Other. Adam noted the good press ACRPC had recently received in the Addy Indy and passed around the articles.

IX. Members Concerns:

- X. Adjourn:** There being no further business, Thea moved to adjourn the meeting; Peter seconded the motion and Harvey adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm.

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.