

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, February 8, 2012

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at its office at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on February 8, 2012 with Harvey Smith, the Chair, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Andrew Manning
Ed Payne

Panton:

Ripton: Jeremy Grip
Marty Kulczyk
Salisbury: Bryan Jones

Bristol: Garland Chico Martin
William Sayre

Shoreham:

Cornwall:

Starksboro:

Ferrisburgh:

Goshen: Chad Chamberlain

Vergennes:

Leicester:

Waltham:

Lincoln: Steve Revell

Weybridge:

Middlebury:

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

Monkton: Charlie Huizenga
Thea Gaudette
Wendy Sue Harper

New Haven: Harvey Smith
Linda Horn

Orwell:

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:

Kent Wright

Addison County Economic Development Corp:

Harvey Smith

Otter Creek Audubon Society:

Margaret Lowe

Otter Creek Natural Resources:

Addison County Chamber of Commerce:

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

7:30 PROGRAM:

Kevin Behm, ACRPC's Assistant Director gave a presentation regarding electric car use in general and ACRPC's electric car demonstration project. He focused on the reasons ACRPC pursued the project and some of the specifications of the project. He demonstrated that a significant amount of Vermont's air pollution and green house gases produced stem from our vehicles. Electric cars produce substantially less CO₂, even when the electric generating plant emissions are considered. He also demonstrated that the operating cost of electric vehicles is about 1/3rd that of an ordinary gas powered vehicle. While the capital cost of electric vehicles is more expensive, there is still an economic benefit over the life of the vehicle.

Kevin then spoke specifically about the capabilities of ACRPC's system. He noted the two stations to be built at ACRPC will have the ability to charge 4 cars, our own and three others. It will help serve as one of the few pieces of charging infrastructure in Vermont. Kevin answered a number of questions and closed noting that our hope will be that we can successfully demonstrate its viability and help the network expand. The Commission thanked Kevin for his informative presentation.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Harvey Smith, the Chair, called the Meeting to order at 8:35 to address the Commission's agenda.

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the January 11, 2012 meeting.** Harvey asked for a motion on the Minutes. **Thea Gaudette moved the minutes. Steve Revell seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, The Commission passed the minutes by voice vote unanimously.**
- II. Executive Board Minutes: No Meeting.**
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam reported on the Treasurer's Report dated February 8, 2012. Adam noted that our fund balances had increased back to where he liked to see them. He noted that receivables were still good. He also noted that revenues were running slightly ahead of expenses. Adam did note that he will present an amended budget to the commission next meeting. Lastly, Adam offered to answer any questions. **Thea Gaudette moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Andrew Manning seconded the motion. The motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

IV. Committee Reports:

- a. **Act 250.** Ellen noted that the region had very little activity this month:

New Applications: None.

Approvals or Denials: None.

Other: The Vermont Agency of Transportation has filed its Agency of Natural Resources, Individual Wetland Permit requesting approval to do work on Bridges 7 and 8 (Stoplight Bridge) on Route 116 in Bristol.

- b. **Local Government.** Thea reported that the Committee will meet in Weybridge on Tuesday, March 13th.
 - c. **Natural Resources.** Kevin noted the Natural Resources committee met on January 24th at 7:00 p.m. and held a discussion regarding wildlife in the region.
 - d. **TAC.** Andrew Manning reported that the TAC held a meeting in January. The primary agenda item reported on the complete streets project it recently completed in Starksboro.
 - e. **Energy.** Wendy Sue Harper reported that the Energy Committee had met to discuss ACRPC's ongoing energy projects. The Committee focused on the electric vehicle, which was the subject of tonight's program, noting it would be installed shortly, the Solar hot water project for the jail, which had been awarded, and the PACE program, for which ACRPC has been helping sponsor a number of informational meetings in preparation for town meeting. It will also hold a meeting in Monkton later in the month.
 - f. **Brownfields.** Jeremy noted that the committee will set a final closeout meeting shortly.
- V. **Joint Partners Report:** Adam noted he and Robin Scheu had attended a joint meeting of the RPCs and RDC's in Montpelier on January 3rd.
- VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Adam that Rick Kehne, ACRPC's Transportation Planner was leaving after 7 years with the Commission to pursue a job much closer to home as the facilities manager for Green Mountain College in Montpelier. Harvey invited Rick into the meeting. The Commission thanked Rick for his service.
- VII. **Old Business:**
- 1. Distribution of New ACRPC Plan. Adam distributed copies of the new ACRPC plan to delegates present at the meeting that had not gotten their copy of the plan previously.
 - 2. Addison County Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Adam distributed a handout Tim Bouton, ACRPC's Emergency Manager had created. It discussed the state of the HMGP program after Irene and discussed the projects in the Addison Region for which Bristol, Ripton, Lincoln and Middlebury were applying. He also noted ACRPC had requested funding to create All Hazard Plans for 3-4 other communities in the region should they be interested in pursuing funding to do hazard mitigation work in the future.
 - 3. Other, Vermont Gas: Adam referred everyone to his monthly highlight, which he had distributed earlier in the meeting. It gave a summary of Vermont Gas's activities to date in its goal toward expansion into Addison County. It also discussed the route alternatives

Vermont Gas was considering and how they might benefit and impact the region. Kevin Behm put a map of the proposed routes up on a screen for all to review. Adam discussed the map and the meetings he had recently been attending to vet the routes. He noted Vermont Gas would also be holding hearings in towns with potential routes. Adam urged the delegates from towns along the route to get their towns/citizens informed soon. While Vermont Gas would not apply for a certificate of Public good for another year, they were looking to finalize a route to study relatively quickly. He also asked how the commission would like to proceed. Steve Revell suggested that the Executive Board should look at the project at its next meeting and ask committee's to review relevant portions of the project. The Commission supported that suggestion.

VIII. New Business:

1. Proposed new Mission Statement: Adam distributed a proposed new mission statement for the commission to review in preparation for a discussion next month. He noted that it contained our present Mission Statement and a draft statement he had created. He invited commissioner s to review it and be prepared to offer comments or suggestions next month.
2. Meeting format: Adam asked about the meeting format. He noted we had been several meeting without a program, but had one tonight. He also noted that he expected to have a program on the Working Landscape bill in March and on Vermont Gas in April. Steve Revell suggested that programs should be limited to 45 minutes and that we must start on time. The topic must also be relevant to things happening in the region. The Commission should be able to adjourn its business by 9:30, so if we need longer for a program, perhaps like Vermont Gas, we should shorten the business meeting. Others generally supported these comments.
3. Other: None.

IX. Members Concerns: None.

X. Adjourn: There being no further business, **Charlie Huizenga moved to adjourn the meeting; Jeremy Grip seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and Harvey adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee
Executive Director