

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Addison County Regional Planning Commission**  
**Wednesday, March 14, 2012**

*ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at its office at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on March 12, 2012 with Jeremy Grip, the vice Chair, presiding.*

---

**ROLL CALL:**

*Addison:*

*Bridport:* Ed Payne  
Bruce Miller  
Mark Pumiglia

*Panton:*

*Ripton:* Jeremy Grip

*Bristol:* Garland Chico Martin

*Salisbury:* Bryan Jones

*Cornwall:*

*Shoreham:*

*Ferrisburgh:*

*Starksboro:*

*Goshen:* Chad Chamberlain

*Vergennes:*

*Leicester:*

*Waltham:*

*Lincoln:*

*Weybridge:*

*Middlebury:* Fred Dunnington  
David Hamilton

*Whiting:* Ellen Kurrelmeyer

*Monkton:* Charlie Huizenga  
Thea Gaudette  
Wendy Sue Harper

*New Haven:*

*Orwell:* Andrea Ochs

**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:* 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:*

*Land use Planner:* Claire Tebbs

*Office Manager/Bookkeeper:* Pauline Cousino

*Regional Planner:* Kevin Lehman

## **7:30 PROGRAM:**

Paul Costello, the Executive Director of the Vermont Community Development Program, came and spoke to the commission concerning the Working Lands Enterprise Investment Bill. Paul presented a short slideshow, handed out a recent bill summary, attached, and discussed the purpose of the bill. He noted that the bill is a broad-based bi-partisan coalition to support the working landscape. He noted that in the latest Doyle Poll, Addison County residents overwhelmingly supported the working landscape. This bill is designed to invest funds into the drivers of the working landscape. The bill's vision is to make Vermont the leader in local agricultural entrepreneurial enterprises and innovation and to build the rural economy on that basis. While the bill asks for \$15 million of investment, if it is funded, it will probably be funded at a lower level of about \$1.5 – \$2 Million dollars. Paul noted that is far short of the goal, but still a good start. The commission was generally receptive to the bill and Paul's presentation, asked a number of questions regarding specifics of the bill and thanked Paul for his effort and outreach to the Addison Region.

## **BUSINESS MEETING:**

Jeremy Grip, the Vice Chair, called the Meeting to order at 8:45 to address the Commission's agenda.

- I. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 8, 2012 meeting.** Jeremy asked for a motion on the Minutes. **Thea Gaudette moved the minutes. Fred Dunnington seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, The Commission passed the minutes by voice vote unanimously.**
- II. **Executive Board Minutes:** Jeremy noted that a draft set of Executive Board minutes was inserted in the packet for people's information. He offered all the opportunity to ask questions or to comment. Hearing none, he moved to the next item on the agenda.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Adam reported on the Treasurer's Report dated March 14, 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 behind expenses. Adam did note that he will present an amended budget to the commission later in the meeting. Lastly, Adam offered to answer any questions. **Andrea Ochs moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Ellen Kurrelmeyer 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:**

1. On February 16, 2012 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued a Land Use Permit to the Marbleworks Partnership in Middlebury to allow it to demolish and existing structure at 259 Maple Street in Middlebury (former video store).
2. On March 12, 2012 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued an amended permit to Pike Industries in New Haven to build a permanent asphalt drum plant replacing the existing plant at its existing facility. Some minor amendments to the permit regarding operating hours have been proposed.

**Other:**

1. Four Hills Farm continues to move forward with their request for a Certificate of public good for their methane based electrical generation operation, which ACRPC's Energy Committee previously recommended ACRPC support.
2. Since the wetland rules changed, there has been a significant increase in requests for conditional Use permits to build within class II wetlands (Generally, linear roads or pipes crossing a wetland or its buffer.)

- b. Local Government.** Thea asked that the report be deferred to new Business.
  - c. Natural Resources.** Mark Pumiglia noted the Natural Resources committee met and held a discussion regarding Vermont Gas's proposal to extend its service into Addison County. The Committee also discussed the gas industry as a whole and its extraction practices.
  - d. TAC.** No Meeting in February. Adam noted that ACRPC had Hired Daryl Benoit as its new transportation planner. Daryl will be a great fit and will begin work on April 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. Energy.** Jeremy Grip reported that the Energy Committee had met to discuss ACRPC's ongoing energy projects. The Committee focused on work it could do to help implement the energy audits that it created and bringing Neighborworks of Vermont's energy weatherization programs to Addison County.
  - f. Brownfields.** Jeremy noted that the committee will set a final closeout meeting shortly.
- V. **Joint Partners Report:** Adam noted that tomorrow evening ACEDC will be hosting a mixer for small businesses at 51 main, designed to bring capital and entrepreneurs together.
- VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Adam recognized Paul Miller, a new alternate member from Bridport and asked him to introduce himself. Paul said hello to the commission, noted that he represented Bridport and expressed his interest in planning.

## 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 Mission Statement. Adam distributed a handout of new Mission Statement ideas for the Commission's consideration. He noted the purpose of having a mission statement was to serve as a memorable statement designed to unite the organization and convey its purpose to outsiders unfamiliar with the organization. Adam stated he felt our current statement failed to convey this purpose. He noted that the change in statement was not meant to change the organization's mission. He also noted that several people had reacted negatively to the term "Community Development" in the mission statement he had offered at the last meeting. Adam noted that this issue is going to take more time than he had originally expected and that there was no urgency to it. Given that people had just received these new suggestions and the lateness of the hour, **Thea move to postpone the discussion of the mission statement to the next meeting. Andrea seconded the motion. After a brief discussion the Commission voted unanimously to postpone the discussion.**
3. Vermont Gas: Adam referred everyone to the executive board minutes. As per the charge of the commission at the last meeting, the Executive Board had discussed and created a plan for committee's to review relevant portions of the project. The Executive Board agreed on some broad principles:
  - a. ACRPC should perform a broad based analysis of the proposed project, using the areas of interest of its committees and partners to help evaluate the information provided.
  - b. ACRPC's investigation should start with and be supported by the goals and policies of ACRPC's regional plan.
  - c. ACRPC should work to be a resource to its member towns, help represent them where they support mutual interests, promote open dialogs and public information sharing, including all information it develops.
  - d. Committees working on the project will tentatively include:
    - Addison County Emergency Planning Committee - safety (Tim)
    - Natural Resources - Air and water pollution (including understanding more about fracking), wildlife and threatened plant communities (Kevin B)
    - Addison County Economic Development/ Energy – Cost Benefits of Gas for region/ Renewable natural gas – (Kevin L/Robin S)
    - Act 250 – Orderly Development of the Region (Regional Plan) (Adam)

4. Other- Budget Adjustment. Adam distributed the budget adjustment that he had discussed at the last meeting and in the Treasurer's Report. He urged the commissioners to look at it and to be prepared to discuss it and vote on it at the next meeting.

#### VIII. **New Business:**

1. Election of a Nominating Committee: Adam noted that two months prior to the annual meeting ACRPC typically elected a nominating committee to propose a slate of officers for the following year. He also noted that while the nominating committee would create a proposed slate, this did not prohibit others from running for election and that any one desiring to serve as an officer of the commission would have an opportunity at both the April meeting and the Annual meeting in May to be nominated from the floor. Andrea moved that the commission create a nominating committee of Thea Gaudette as Chair, Ed Payne and Chico Martin. Wendy Sue Harper seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a voice vote.
2. Annual Program and Location Suggestions. Adam referred the commission to the discussion in the executive Board minutes regarding speakers and places for our annual meeting. It included:
  - Tony Clark speaking about the Moosalamoo and Recreation trails in Goshen
  - Sue Minter speaking about accelerated bridge construction and focusing on the Sand Hill Bridge
  - A Champlain Bridge Tour in Addison
  - Robin Scheu discussing local value added food/beverage production paired with tastings from local companies.

After a discussion, the commission requested that Adam investigate both Sue Minter's availability and the availability to taste and discuss local products.

3. Bertha Hanson Award: Adam asked each commissioner to think of the commissioner they would like to nominate for this planning award. He invited commissioners to make their nominations to the executive Board or to Adam by the April Executive Board Meeting.
4. Other, Confirmation of the Town of Weybridge's Planning Process and Regional Approval of the Weybridge Town Plan: **Thea Gaudette, Chair of the Local Government Committee reported that the committee had met with the Town of Weybridge regarding its plan and its planning process and requested that the Full Commission confirm its planning process and regionally approve its plan.**

**Andrea Ochs seconded the motion, which the full commission unanimously approved.**

**IX. Members Concerns:** None.

**X. Adjourn:** There being no further business, Andrea **moved to adjourn the meeting; Thea seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and Jeremy adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee  
Executive Director