

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, April 11, 2012

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at its office at 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on April 11, 2012 with Harvey Smith, the Chair, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Ed Payne
Bruce Miller

Panton:

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Bristol: Garland Chico Martin
William Sayre

Salisbury:

Shoreham:

Cornwall:

Starksboro: Richard Warren

Ferrisburgh: Kevin Rooney
Goshen: Chad Chamberlain

Vergennes:

Leicester:

Waltham:

Lincoln: Steve Revell

Weybridge:

Middlebury: Fred Dunnington
David Hamilton

Whiting:

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: Daryl Benoit

Land use Planner: Claire Tebbs

Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino

Regional Planner: Kevin Lehman

7:30 PROGRAM: Vermont Gas Systems Proposed Expansion

Steve Wark, Director of Communications, Tim Lyons, Vice President and Mark Texiara, the Chief of Systems Operations for Vermont Gas Systems attended the meeting and presented information to the Commission about Vermont Gas's proposal to bring natural gas service to Middlebury and Vergennes. Mr. Wark discussed Vermont Gas's activities to date concerning feasibility and line routing and the benefits and impacts of the line to the Region's citizens, businesses and communities. Mr. Wark also discussed Vermont Gas's engineering work to be done, its timetable for an application for a Certificate of Public Good, and if approved, its plan and timetable for construction of the project. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation Mr. Wark used is available for viewing by clicking [here](#) or on ACRPC's website at: <http://www.acrpc.info/Downloads/Other/Addison%20RPC%20Vf.pdf>. RPC Commissioners asked a number of questions regarding Vermont Gas's proposal for extending this potentially important piece of infrastructure for the Region including:

Kevin Behm asked about the funding formula for the pipeline and whether fluctuations in price would impact the scope of the proposed pipeline.

Steve Wark replied that the Board had approved a one time allocation for a total of \$57 Million Dollars. In order to increase the size of the project, Vermont Gas would need to ask for additional allocations.

Jerry Smiley, a citizen from New Haven, commented that he would like to see Vermont Gas extend the transmission line all the way to Middlebury. If the project finances will not allow that model, He expressed a preference for the distribution line to follow South Street to River Road to Route 7 over the Town Hill Road to Route 7 alternative.

Margaret Lowe noted that the open area under and around the VELCO corridor is good bird habitat. She asked how VT Gas would modify their work to mitigate their impact on this habitat if they used this corridor.

Mark Texiara responded that Vermont Gas would modify its schedule, as necessary to mitigate impacts during critical breeding or nesting times.

Chico Martin of Bristol asked how Vermont Gas decided to include or exclude communities in its application.

Tim Lyons responded that Vermont Gas used primarily a cost/benefit equation. Dense communities with large commercial or industrial users score better and will receive service first. He also noted that Bristol is a community that Vermont Gas would be interested in serving.

Wendy Sue Harper of Monkton asked Vermont Gas about its plans for service to Monkton.

Steve Wark responded that Vermont Gas had not yet pinned down the place where the transmission line would end and the distribution line would begin. To a great extent, the availability of service in Monkton will depend upon where the distribution starts and on the interests of the Town of Monkton. Vermont Gas has a meeting with Monkton on May 14th.

Bill Sayre of Bristol asked about co-generation uses and natural gas vehicle uses in the future.

Steve Wark responded that at this time Vermont Gas is working on a thermal project only and has no plans to serve any co-generation facility. If someone else were to build a facility, Vermont Gas would be willing to speak with them.

Tim Lyons noted that Vermont Gas is very interested in serving vehicle fleets with natural gas and believes very powerful economic incentives exist for the right type of company. Public access natural gas fueling stations are not currently part of the plan, but Vermont Gas would be willing to work with a user if the opportunity arose.

Margaret Lowe asked about sprawl created by Vermont Gas infrastructure.

Steve Wark stated that Vermont Gas followed density, it did not create sprawl.

Fred Dunnington differed with Steve's assertion and referenced the map of Vermont Gas's existing services, noting that he believed Vermont Gas's service to Addison County would grow to mimic the patterns in its existing service area.

Harvey Smith closed the program and thanked the representatives of Vermont Gas for including the Addison County Regional Planning Commission in the discussion.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Harvey Smith, the Chair, called the Meeting to order at 8:45 to address the Commission's agenda.

- I. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 14, 2012 meeting.** Harvey asked for a motion on the minutes. **Thea Gaudette moved the minutes. Linda Horn seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, The Commission passed the minutes by voice vote unanimously.**
- II. **Executive Board Minutes:** Harvey 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 asked to move this report to later in the program when he could do with the amended budget.

IV. Committee Reports:

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

New Applications: On April 5, 2012 the Vermont Hard Cider Company, LLC applied to the District 9 Environmental Commission for a land use permit to construct a new bottling plant to be located in the Middlebury Industrial park on Exchange Street in Middlebury

Approvals or Denials: On March 29, 2012 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued an Administrative Amendment to the Land Use Permit governing the Foote Farm development in Cornwall. The amendment deleted the end date for the construction of houses, allowed the creation of a shared driveway and to incorporate those changes into the Covenants governing the development.

Other: None

b. **Local Government.** No Meeting.

c. **Natural Resources.** The Natural Resources Committee spent its last meeting reviewing Vermont Gas's project and on reviewing and commenting on the Otter Creek Basin Plan so it contained policy similar to that recent passed by the Commission in its regional plan.

d. **TAC.** Andrew Manning reported that the TAC had spent most of the meeting discussion regional prioritization. He also noted that they had received an update on each of the TAC planning projects. 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 15th.

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 and that staff was working on finding new money to close out the Whiting project.

V. **Joint Partners Report:** None provide.

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Adam noted the newsletter had a lot of good information this month.

VII. Old Business:

1. Report of the Nominating Committee concerning Executive Board Nominations. Thea Gaudette, Chair of the nominating committee reported that the nominating committee had met and had selected the current slate of Officers and directors to serve an additional term next year:

Harvey Smith, Chair
Jeremy Grip, Vice Chair
Bill Sayre, Secretary
Fred Dunnington, Treasurer
Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Member at large
Steve Revell, Member at large
Andrew Manning, Member at large

Thea also opened the floor to additional/alternate nominations. The Commission did not propose any other nominations. Thea reminded the Commission that nominations from the floor would also be accepted at the Annual Meeting.

2. Proposed Budget Adjustment and vote. Adam distributed the Treasurer's Report and noted the proposed budget adjustment was in the packet sent to everyone with the agenda. Adam explained Treasurer's report and moved to the proposed budget amendment. He pointed out several of the larger changes that had taken place over the course of the year, offered to address any questions and requested that the commissioners pass the amended budget. After some discussion regarding the purpose of the amendment, which Adam explained was to provide the commissioners with an accurate picture of ACRPC's programs and finances, Chico Martin Moved to approve the budget amendment and Treasurer's Report, The Gaudette seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
3. Addison County Mission Statement. Adam distributed a handout of new Mission Statement ideas for the Commission's consideration. **After a brief discussion the Commission voted to postpone the discussion until the June Meeting.**
4. Other: Adam noted that he had received the results back from the municipal survey he had requested that towns complete in January and that he would be tallying and summarizing the results for the commission. In general, he noted that he was fairly pleased with the results of the survey.

VIII. New Business:

1. Proposed Budget for next year: Adam noted that he had also included a proposed budget for next year in the package of information. Adam noted that he is not happy with that proposed budget as it shows the commission operating at a deficit. He requested that the Commission look at it again at the June meeting. In the

meantime, he proposed that he would work on the draft and find ways to make sure it balances.

2. Annual Program. Adam noted that our Annual Meeting will be at Tourterelle Restaurant in New Haven this year. Our Speaker will be Ellen Kahler, the Executive Director of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs fund and that she would discuss planning's role in creating and maintaining opportunities for farming and value added agriculture. Adam also noted that we would go on a tour of some local farms/business prior to the meeting and that he would have an ACTR bus available for that tour. referred the commission to the discussion in the executive Board minutes regarding speakers and places for our annual meeting. Lastly, he noted that formal invitations would go out next week.

3. Other. None.

IX. Members Concerns: None.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee
Executive Director