

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, October 10, 2012

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at ACRPC's office on 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on October 10, 2012 with Harvey Smith of New Haven, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Ed Payne Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Bill Sayre Chico Martin	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>		<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>	Chad Chamberlin	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Karl Neuse David Hamilton Susan Shashok	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charlie Huizenga Wendy Sue Harper	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer Jonathan Heppell
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

<i>Addison County Farm Bureau:</i>	Kent Wright
<i>Addison County Economic Development Corp:</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Otter Creek Audubon Society:</i>	Margaret Lowe
<i>Otter Creek Natural Resources:</i>	
<i>Addison County Chamber of Commerce:</i>	

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

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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7:30 BUSINESS MEETING: Harvey Smith, the Chair, called the Meeting to order at 7:30 to address the Commission's agenda.

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the September 12, 2012 meeting. Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved the minutes. Jeremy Grip of Ripton seconded the motion. The Commission passed the minutes by voice vote with all approving, except Steve Revell of Lincoln who abstained.**
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Chairman Smith of New Haven noted that draft set of Executive Board minutes from September 26, 2012 were 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 handed out the treasurer's report as of October 10, 2012. He explained that while the balance amounts are current, the attached monthly budget report was as of June 30th, ACRPC's fiscal year end and that our audit was currently in process. Adam noted that our fund balances remained strong. He also noted the unaudited budget still shows a loss for last year of about \$40,000. While the audit will change that number somewhat, Adam expects it will remain roughly the same. **Ellen Kurrelmeyer of Whiting moved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Thea Gaudette of Monkton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**

Act 250: Ellen gave the ACT 250 report as follows:

New Applications:

On July 30, 2012 the Town of Middlebury applied for an amendment to an existing Act 250 permit to build a Grit drying bed at the town wastewater treatment plant on Industrial Ave in the Town of Middlebury. On August 28th the District Commission provided notice that it would treat this application as a minor and issue a permit without a hearing unless a party requested a hearing by September 21, 2012.

Approvals or Denials:

1. On August 30, 2012 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued a permit to the President and fellows of Middlebury College permitting the construction of a snowmaking system at the Rikert Cross Country Center on the Breadloaf Campus on Route 125 in Ripton.
2. On September 14, 2012 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued a permit to the President and Fellows of Middlebury College permitting the construction of a squash facility behind Kenyan Arena.

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



Other: On October 5, 2012 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued an administrative Change to existing act 250 permit 9A0080-9 to allow Simmonds Precision Products to replace its existing parking lot lights with LEDs and to add several lighting fixtures also with LEDs.

Energy: Jeremy Grip noted that at the last meeting Dan Smith had presented the study that he did concerning the feasibility of renewable natural gas. The Committee also finalized its recommendations regarding the Vermont Gas pipeline on the agenda for later in the evening.

Local Government: Fred Dunnington reported that the committee had not met.

Natural Resources: Ed Payne noted the committee had not met.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC concluded its evaluation of proposed town planning projects and made the following rankings:

Ferrisburgh Hollow traffic calming:	\$10,000
Monkton Ridge Traffic Calming:	\$15,000
Ripton Bridge Study	\$10,000
Regional culvert analysis:	\$ 5,000

- V. **Joint Partners Report:** Harvey noted that the ARPC and ACEDC were organizing a meeting of their executive boards and that he would make sure all other commissioners were notified of the meeting and invited to it.
- VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Harvey Smith recognized Susan Shashok, a new alternate from Middlebury and asked her to say a couple of words to introduce herself to the group. Susan noted that she was a member of the Middlebury Selectboard and looked forward to learning more about regional planning.
- VII. **Old Business:**

This Year's Budget FY 2012-2013: Adam reviewed this year's budget that the commission had passed at its June meeting. He reminded the commission that the items on the budget highlighted in yellow were projected income that staff was pursuing, but had not come in yet and may not come in. He also noted that staff continued to pursue other funding opportunities supporting our mission. Adam referred the Commission to the list outside the budget on the bottom of the first page. He walked the commission through each item listed and explained what the funding would support and how staff would pursue it. Adam noted that the total funding would be almost twice as much as the current hole, but he did not expect every application would be successful. Harvey noted that this item was for discussion only and that the commission did not need to act further on it. We would continue to review it throughout the year. Adam noted that he would work hard not to show a deficit again next year.

Vermont Gas Pipeline Update: Adam reminded the commission that earlier this year the commission had asked its Energy, Natural Resources and Act 250 committee and the Local Emergency Planning commission to review different aspects of the proposed Vermont gas pipeline. Adam then distributed draft notes each of the committees had compiled for the commission on their respective area of interest. Adam explained that we would look at the draft notes briefly this meeting. However, the real purpose of distributing them was so that all commissioners would have the opportunity to look at them for the month prior to our meeting with Vermont Gas next month, November 14th. At that meeting we expect to spend more time with Vermont Gas hearing about the scope of their project and discussing ACRPC's proposed findings. Adam expects that sometime after the November meeting the commission will reach a conclusion regarding how it will participate in the Vermont Gas Pipeline project. Adam then asked each committee chair to briefly summarize their committee's proposals.

Ellen Kurrelmeyer, the chair of the Act 250/248 Committee went first. She noted that her committee reviewed the project in the context of the regional plan and the orderly development of the region. She also noted that her committee had just recently met and that committee members that had missed the meeting had not seen the draft findings, they really were "draft". Ellen noted some of the significant proposals of the committee would include requesting that Vermont gas enable distribution within the village area of every town through which it passed, that Vermont Gas establish its efficiency program in the region and that Vermont Gas support renewable natural gas production by the region's farms where feasible.

Next, Kevin Behm spoke on behalf of the Natural Resources Committee regarding their recommendations. They noted that the committee reviewed pipeline conditions from other gas pipelines, adapted them to Vermont and looked at a number of different natural resource related criteria to determine what they felt they could recommend that ACRPC request.

Adam Lougee presented the proposed requests of the local emergency management Commission. He explained that most of the proposed requests dealt with training and equipment necessary to respond quickly to a potentially dangerous situation stemming from the natural gas pipeline.

Lastly, Jeremy Grip presented the energy Committees proposed requests. The Energy Committee reviewed the cost benefit of the pipeline and concluded that the economics of gas made sense for the region's businesses and villages for residential fuels. They found that conservation also made sense and should be included as part of the program.

After the summaries, Harvey Smith opened the floor for comment.

Chico Martin of Bristol noted that this project was funded largely by Vermont Gas ratepayers and therefore must really benefit the municipalities and people of the region. For that reason he urged the commission to strongly demand that Vermont Gas expand its service to the villages of every town within the region it can realistically reach and certainly those which it passes through.

Some Commissioner's questioned whether the LEPC's recommendation of a ten minute response time was realistic. Adam noted he would speak with Tim Bouton, ACRPC's Emergency Planner to determine the genesis of that comment. Steve Revel, a long time

volunteer fire department member noted that he expected it was based upon the time the local fire departments felt it would take them to reach a problem. Steve expected that they would want someone trained and very familiar with pipeline gas on scene as soon as possible to help the firefighters react quickly and appropriately.

Fred noted the ACT 250 Committee still wanted to address Vermont Gases requirement for integrated resource planning.

Others asked about Vermont Gas's efficiency program. Bill Sayre noted that he was a director of Vermont Gas and noted the efficiency program would travel with Vermont Gas to benefit Addison County if they build the pipeline.

Harvey thanked the Committees for their reports, asked the commissioners to review them prior to our meeting with Vermont Gas next month so we will be prepared to speak eloquently about the best interests of the region.

Broadband Report: Harvey introduced Kevin Lehman, a staff planner for ACRPC, who had been working on behalf of the commission creating a plan to improve broadband usage in the region. Kevin thanked Harvey, handed out the Addison Section of the statewide report, and began to present the details of the Addison County Plan in a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of both the Addison version of the plan and the PowerPoint summarizing the project and its findings in each sector are located on ACRPC's website at www.acrpc.org. Kevin invited all to look at the plan. He summarized its approach of working with different sectors of the economy and making recommendations for each sector. He noted how vital growing the utilization of broadband would be for the region to reach new markets. After the presentation, several commissioners expressed concern that the southern portion of the county, while it had DSL, was dramatically underserved because of poor speed and frequent outages. David Hamilton noted the work the Middlebury business partnership is doing trying to capture the professionals that live here, but telecommute. He explained the area had huge opportunities to build upon this success and looked forward to meetings of the telecommuters group. Harvey thanked Kevin for his informative presentation.

Other: None.

VII. New Business:

Other: None.

VIII. Members Concerns: Wendy Sue noted that Monkton was having its Renewable Energy open house next Thursday, invited everyone to attend and explained that Monkton had a lot of Vendors coming.

IX. Adjourn: Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved to adjourn the meeting, Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion. The motion, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Adam G. Lougee, Director