

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Addison County Regional Planning Commission**  
**Wednesday, December 12, 2012**

*ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at ACRPC's office on 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on December 12, 2012 with Harvey Smith of New Haven, presiding.*

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**ROLL CALL:**

*Addison:*

*Bridport:* Ed Payne  
Andrew Manning

*Bristol:* Bill Sayre  
Chico Martin

*Cornwall:*

*Ferrisburgh:*

*Goshen:*

*Leicester:*

*Lincoln:* Steve Revell

*Middlebury:* Fred Dunnington  
David Hamilton  
Susan Shashok

*Monkton:* Thea Gaudette  
Wendy Sue Harper

*New Haven:* Harvey Smith

*Orwell:*

*Panton:*

*Ripton:*

*Salisbury:*

*Shoreham:*

*Starksboro:* Richard Warren

*Vergennes:*

*Waltham:*

*Weybridge:*

*Whiting:* Ellen Kurrelmeyer

\*A sizable delegation from Monkton was present at and participated in the discussion concerning the proposed Vermont Gas Pipeline

**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

**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

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 www.acrpc.org Phone: 802.388.3141 Fax: 802.388.0038

## 7:30 Presentation, Front Porch Forum (“FPF”):

Harvey Smith, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:30 to address the Commission’s agenda. He introduced the Commission’s guest for the evening, Michael Wood-Lewis, Cofounder of the Front Porch Forum.

Adam explained that on behalf of ACRPC he has been working with Robin Scheu of ACEDC, Kate McGowan of the United Way and Spence Putnam of Weybridge to try to bring FPF to the Addison Region as a way to strengthen the community’s ability to communicate with their neighbors. It builds upon the broadband planning we recently completed and could be a useful tool for local governments to engage their citizens. Spence, on behalf of the group, negotiated a substantial discount with FPF for all unserved towns in the region to join FPF. We also contacted clerks and selectboard chairs in the Region to invite them to participate in FPF and to come to the meeting tonight to learn more about the service.

Michael thanked Adam for the introduction. He presented a PowerPoint regarding the benefits of FPF. The presentation can be found on ACRPC’s website at [www.acrpc.org](http://www.acrpc.org). He then proceeded to answer a number of questions from the Commissioners and other audience members present about how FPF operates and its benefits.

At approximately 8:20, Harvey closed the program due to the time and thanked Michael for his presentation.

## 8:30 Business Meeting:

- I. **Approval of the Minutes of the November 14, 2012 meeting.** Fred Dunnington of Middlebury moved the minutes. Thea Gaudette of Monkton seconded the motion. Wendy Sue Harper of Monkton noted that she was not present last month, but that the minutes reflected that she was; she requested that the minutes reflect that change. The Commission passed the minutes, as amended by Wendy Sue, by voice vote with all approving.

**Additionally, since the Commission had skipped the business meeting in November because of the length of Vermont Gas’s presentation, Andrew Manning moved that the Commission also approve the October 11, 2012 meeting minutes. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion. All voted to approve the October minutes as presented.**

- II. **Executive Board Minutes:** Chairman Smith of New Haven noted that draft set of Executive Board minutes from November 28, 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 December 12, 2012. Adam noted that our fund balances remained strong. He also noted that as of this point in our fiscal year, our revenues and expenses are very close to even. Adam will watch both revenues and expenses to make sure they continue to balance. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer’s report. **Thea Gaudette moved to accept the Treasurer’s report**

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



**as presented. Ellen Kurrelmeyer of Whiting seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

**IV. Committee Reports:**

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

**New Applications:**

1. On October 2, 2012 the Town of Middlebury and the Marbleworks Partnership filed an application for improvements to a proposed public park to be located just behind Printers Alley in Middlebury. That permit was treated as a minor application and granted on December 12, 2012.
2. On November 10, 2012 the President and Fellows of Middlebury College applied for an Act 250 permit to construct a Field House at the Peterson Family Athletic Facility on Route 30 in Middlebury to replace the temporary field house “bubble” currently at the site. On November 20, 2012 the District Commission deemed this project constituted a minor application. No hearing will be held unless requested by a party prior to December 19, 2012.
3. On November 16, 2012 WhistlePig, LLC filed an act 250 application to make improvements to an existing Rye Whiskey Distillery located on Palmer Road in Shoreham, Vermont. A site visit and hearing will be held on January 15, 2012. The hearing will be in the Shoreham Town Library.

**Approvals or Denials:**

1. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued an amended permit to the Town of Middlebury allowing it to build a Grit drying bed at the town wastewater treatment plant on Industrial Ave in the Town of Middlebury.
2. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the District 9 Environmental Commission issued a permit to the Vermont Hard Cider Co., LLC to construct a new 87,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility on 26 acres in the industrial Park in Middlebury, Vermont.

**Other:** None.

Energy: Fred Dunnington reported that the Energy Committee had focused its meeting on discussing the PACE program and on a new program efficiency Vermont is launching, the 2013 Home weatherization challenge. ACRPC will act as a facilitator to try to encourage 3% of the homes in participating communities to make improvements to improve their thermal energy efficiency.

Local Government: Fred Dunnington reported that the committee had met in Leicester and that he would have a full report under New Business.

Natural Resources: Kevin Behm noted that the committee had met to prioritize the action steps that it had included in the natural resources section of ACRPC’s Regional Plan. They worked through 3 of 10 sub-sections and will continue the work at their next meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC had discussed the New Haven Field Days mobility study it had commissioned.

V. **Joint Partners Report:** Harvey noted that ACRPC, ACEDC and ACoRN had just completed an excellent workshop they worked together to organize concerning financing the working landscape.

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** None.

VII. **Old Business:**

Discussion concerning Vermont Gas pipeline and vote on Committee Recommendations:

Harvey requested that Adam lead the discussion regarding the pipeline proposed by Vermont Gas systems. Adam handed out a memorandum he had created to try to focus the discussion and to provide staff with enough information to carry out the direction the commission desired to follow. Adam used the memo to summarize the action the commission's committees had taken to date and the charge each had been given by the commission.

He then asked the Commission to provide direction as to how it would like to address the project. **Chico Martin of Bristol moved to support the overall gas pipeline project but to advocate for conditions that support areas of interest or concern to the Commission. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion. After considerable discussion, the Commission voted unanimously by voice vote to support the motion.**

**Thea Gaudette of Monkton then moved that the Commission leave the outline that Adam had prepared to allow the Town of Monkton and the delegation from Monkton that had joined the Commission for that meeting to speak. Chico Martin seconded that motion and all voted in favor of it.**

Thea, as the senior Commissioner representing Monkton, began the discussion. She noted that the Town of Monkton had expected the corridor to follow the VELCO ROW through the Town. On November 5, 2012, without consultation, the Town found that Vermont Gas's proposal for much of Monkton had changed and that Vermont Gas now was proposing to use the public ROW on Monkton Road for the transmission line. The proposed line in the road ROW travels through two historic hamlets past 60 homes. She then read the letter the Monkton Selectboard had sent to Vermont Gas into the record of the meeting. A copy of the letter is attached here. In summary, the Monkton Selected board refused to let Vermont Gas use the public right of way, requested that Vermont Gas relocate its proposed pipeline out of the Monkton Road ROW and requested that ACRPC support its position.

Henry Boisse, also of Monkton, spoke on behalf of the group of Monkton citizens in attendance. He noted that the group wanted Vermont Gas to relocate the line away from the road ROW and back onto the VELCO ROW as it was first proposed.

Ken Wheeling of Monkton also spoke against the corridor in Monkton on Monkton Road. He noted that the construction easement would require Vermont Gas to take down all the Street trees in Monktonboro.

Elsa Gilbertson, speaking as a private citizen, spoke against using Monkton Road as a pipeline corridor. She noted that the Monkton Road was the main thoroughfare from Starksboro and Monkton to Vergennes. She noted that the route contained a lot of important historical structures and properties. She noted that the area was settled by revolutionary war veterans shortly after the war. She noted that the hamlets of both Monktonboro and Barnumtown dated back to that era and that many old houses were located very close to the road. She noted that the pipeline would negatively impact both the houses and the street trees.

In summary, the Monkton residents attending the meeting noted that Vermont Gas's proposed pipeline in the Monkton Road did not consider the human resources of the people living close to the line. They urged the Commission to support Monkton by requesting that Vermont Gas choose a different corridor option.

Several commissioners spoke strongly that the Commission should aid the Town of Monkton and its residents by advocating that Vermont Gas seek an alternative route to the line other than Monkton Road.

Steve Revell of Lincoln noted that the motion to support the project could include numerous conditions, this would only be one of them and that the Commission should participate in the process until the project is satisfactory to the Region's best interest.

**Steve then moved that the Commission intervene in the application to seek party status to advocate for specific improvements to the project. Richard Warren of Starksboro seconded the motion. All voted in favor of intervening to secure party status.**

**Steve then moved to adopt the Committee Reports as presented to the Commission as areas of concern where the Commission would participate. Fred Dunnington seconded the motion.** During the discussion phase several commissioners noted that we should address other conditions, including those just raised by Monkton. The Commission acknowledged those concerns and chose to address them as additional issues after it addressed the Committee reports. **At the completion of the discussion, on a voice vote, the Commission unanimously voted to adopt its committee reports.**

The Commission then discussed other conditions that it would advocate for, within the context of its support for the overall pipeline. It created a slate of 4 additional conditions beyond the concerns raised in the Committee reports:

1. To request that the Vermont Public Service Board require Vermont Gas to provide the towns along the pipeline with a commitment that they will receive distribution service to their "village" area within a specific timeframe. Not only Middlebury and Vergennes, but also Monkton, New Haven, Bristol and East Middlebury.

2. To Support the Town of Monkton by opposing the use of the Monkton Road as a transmission corridor and encouraging Vermont Gas to use other corridors, including the VELCO corridor;
3. To request that the Public Service Board require Vermont Gas to minimize impacts to businesses and residences.
4. To request that the Public Service Board severely discourage the use of eminent domain proceedings, especially in close proximity to residences.

**Chico Martin moved that the Commission adopt the 4 additional conditions noted above. Richard Warren seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

The discussion regarding Vermont Gas ended, the delegation from Monkton thanked the Commission and left and the Commission addressed its attention to the items on the agenda it needed to act on in December, tabling the rest until its next meeting.

Endorsement of Broadband report presented at October Meeting: Tabled until next meeting.

Audit: Tabled until next meeting.

Other: Tabled until next meeting.

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

Dues for FY 2013/2014: Adam presented the Commission with the new dues structure proposed by the Executive Board for FY 2013/2014. It includes raising the dues three cents per capita from \$1.08 to \$1.11. Adam noted that dues only comprise about 5% of our budget. However, ACRPC's expenses have continued to increase. While we did not raise dues last year, Adam felt it is necessary that dues keep up with other portions of the budget to keep its member municipalities invested in the Commission's work. Adam also noted that a three cent increase raises about \$1,000. It is the minimum raise that he believes the Commission should pursue. **Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved that the Commission adopt the new dues rate for FY 2013/2014. Ed Payne seconded the motion. All approved.**

Vote concerning the confirmation and approval of the Leicester Town Plan: Fred noted the Local Government Committee had held a joint hearing with the Leicester Selectboard and representatives of the Leicester Planning Commission on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to confirm Leicester's local planning process and to regionally adopt their town plan. He noted that staff had reviewed the plan and found it favorable and at the hearing all offered positive comments on the plan. **Fred moved to confirm Leicester's planning process and to regionally approve the Leicester Town Plan. Andrew Manning seconded the motion. On a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.**

Other: None.

**IX. Members Concerns:** None.

**X. Adjourn:** Chico Martin of Bristol moved to adjourn the meeting, Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion. The motion, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Adam G. Lougee, Director