

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, March 13, 2013

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at ACRPC's office on 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on March 13, 2013 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 Peter Grant	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Jim Duclos	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	David Ludwig	<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
<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>	Paul Wagner
<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

7:30 Program Presentation, Forest Stewardship: Kevin Behm, ACRPC's Assistant Director and GIS Manager, made a presentation to the commission regarding the work on Forest Stewardship that the Commission recently completed. Kevin noted that the Forest based economy produces approximately \$1.5 Billion dollars in value to the state each year, roughly 1/20th of the total economy. He also noted that large forest blocks have many other non-monetized values including protecting water and air quality and providing critical habitat for many plants and animals. Kevin noted that this study looked at all portions of the forests' value. The study focused on ways to preserve important large blocks of forest habitat. A link to the PowerPoint presentation that Kevin gave, located on ACRPC's website is: <http://www.acrpc.info/naturalresources/forest/stewardship/StewardshipMar13.ppt>

The entire study and its appendixes can also be found in the natural resources section of ACRPC's website.

8:30 Business Meeting:

- I. Approval of the Minutes:** Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved the minutes of the February 13, 2013 meeting. Andrew Manning of Bridport seconded the motion. The Commission passed the minutes by voice vote with all approving.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Harvey noted that the minutes were contained in the package sent to everyone and handed out for informational purposes. Harvey asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Executive Board Minutes. Hearing no questions, Harvey moved to the next item on the agenda.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam handed out the treasurer's report dated as of March 13, 2013 (The balance Sheets listed current balances as of today; the monthly budget reflects activity through January). Adam noted that our fund balances remained strong. He also noted that as of this point in our fiscal year, our revenues are slightly higher than our expenses. 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 of Monkton moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Wendy Sue Harper of Monkton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**
 - Act 250: Ellen gave the ACT 250 report as follows:
New Applications:
 1. On March 4, 2013 Steve and Marcia Dupoise of New Haven applied for an Act 250 permit for construction of a new storage building at their existing facility on Route 7 in New Haven and for a permit to retroactively cover buildings 3, 4 and 5 on the site.

Approvals or Denials:

1. On February 19, 2013 the District Environmental Commission issued an administrative amendment to the permit it had previously issued to Pike Industries in New Haven, to allow it to convert the asphalt plant at that location to natural gas.

Other:

1. Staff met with representatives of Middlebury Ventures and Encore Redevelopment concerning a proposed solar facility that they plan to file an application for very soon. The solar facility will cover about 3 acres and generate approximately 750kw of electricity, about enough annually to serve 70 homes. The facility is proposed to be located off of Star Point Drive near the South Ridge development in Middlebury.
2. On Friday March 1, 2013 Adam filed testimony on behalf of ACRPC in the WhistlePig, LLC case noting that the regional plan supported the business's plans to redevelop an abandoned dairy farm and redevelop the property to grow, distill, bottle and store rye whiskey under criteria 10 of Act 250. A copy of that testimony is attached for people desiring more detail.

Energy: Fred Dunnington of Middlebury reported that the Energy Committee had hosted the 2013 Home Weatherization Challenge training at its meeting last Thursday. He noted that nine communities in Addison County had committed to participate and attended the training.

Local Government: No meeting.

Natural Resources: Kevin Behm noted that the Committee met the first week in February and will meet again the last Tuesday in March. The Committee continued to work to prioritize the recommended actions contained in the Natural Resources Section of the Plan.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Adam noted that at the TAC's last meeting Representative Lanpher gave a presentation on the overall transportation spending budget in Vermont and the House Transportation Committees proposals to increase revenue sources.

- V. **Joint Partners Report:** Adam gave an update on Front Porch Forum noting that 3 towns in the region had joined as a result of the work ACRPC, ACEDC and United Way had done to promote the program.
- VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Adam handed out the project each staff member chose to highlight for the month. He focused on Tim's note that he would be updating each town's basic emergency operations plan to reflect Town meeting day elections. He also highlighted the film ACRPC is working jointly to sponsor with the Department of Health entitled, "Weight of the Nation", which focuses on people's health connection to the built environment around them.

VII. Old Business:

Update concerning Vermont Gas pipeline: Adam provided a brief summary of where ACRPC stood in the Vermont Gas process. He noted that the PSB had held its pre-hearing conference and set the hearing schedule. As expected, VT Gas amended its filing and filed a new line route in Monkton and Hinesburg on February 28th. He also noted that the PSB will hold the public hearing on the Project on March 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Champlain Valley Union High School's auditorium in Hinesburg.

Adam also stated that he and several of the commissioners present in the room from the Towns of Middlebury, Cornwall and Shoreham have been appointed to the working group to help Vermont Gas to avoid making several of the siting errors that occurred in Phase I of the project.

Mid-year Budget Review (Vote): Adam described the revised budget that he was requesting the Board approve. **Chico Martin moved to amend the budget as requested. Peter Grant seconded the motion.** Adam noted that the budget in the package was very similar to the budget he handed out the previous month. He did note that he had made several small changes, but overall the budget remained very similar. Adam noted that the budget as presented still contained a spot to raise revenues by \$20,000 over existing contractual commitments. Adam noted that ACRPC had already raised significant revenue during the course of the year, but that rather than make budget cuts, he hoped to increase revenue. Margaret Lowe called the question. All voted in favor of calling the question. Harvey then presented the motion to amend the budget. The amended budget passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Municipal Consultations: Adam explained the concept of Municipal Consultations to the full Commission. He noted it was very similar to the consultation process ACRPC had done two years earlier during its strategic planning process. He also noted that he had been doing many of them with the Local Government Committee, but that process was proving to slow. He has several consultations set up over the next few weeks. He will invite the delegates representing the town discussed to the presentation.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business:

Election of a Nominating Committee: Harvey noted that at its March meeting the Commission generally creates a nominating committee to recommend the slate of officers for election at the annual meeting. Harvey continued that traditionally, the nominating committee is lead by a representative that is leaving the executive board and not eligible for reappointment to the board. He also noted other members of the nominating committee are eligible to seek office if they choose to do so. Harvey proposed the following slate for the nominating committee:

Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Chair (Ellen is leaving the Executive Board)

Thea Gaudette and
David Hamilton

Peter Grant moved acceptance of the nominating committee. Jeremy Grip seconded the slate proposed. With no further discussion, the commission voted unanimously to support the slate proposed as the nominating committee. Harvey asked the committee to be prepared to report on a slate of proposed officers at the April full Commission meeting. Harvey noted that in addition to the slate recommended by the nominating committee any other commissioner could be nominated for election from the floor at the April meeting, or at the election at the annual meeting.

Annual Program and Event: Harvey noted that the Commission's annual meeting is in May. At that meeting we generally have an informational program. Harvey suggested a program revolving around what constituted value added agriculture and /or forestry, but asked for any other suggestions. He also requested ideas for locations and/caterers. The Commission generally supported the idea regarding value added agriculture and charged Adam with setting up an appropriate program and location.

Nominations for the Bertha Hanson Award: Harvey also reminded commissioners that the Commission awards the Bertha Hanson award annually to Commissioners that have done exceptional work over their service to the Commission. Harvey requested that anyone wishing to nominate a candidate speak with any member of the Executive Board or Adam

Other: None.

IX. Members Concerns: None.

X. Adjourn: Peter Grant of Bristol moved to adjourn the meeting, Thea Gaudette of Monkton seconded the motion. The motion, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Adam G. Lougee, Director