

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, June 12, 2013

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at ACRPC's office on 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on June 12, 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>	Jamie Dayton
<i>Bristol:</i>	Bill Sayre 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 Jan McCleery
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Fred Dunnington Karl Neuse Ross Conrad Ted Davis	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Charlie Huizenga Wendy Sue Harper		
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau: Kent Wright
Addison County Economic Development Corp: Harvey Smith
Otter Creek Audubon Society:
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

7:30 Program: Daryl Benoit, ACRPC's Transportation Planner, presented the database of transportation information that he is in the process of developing for application from ACRPC's website. Daryl has aggregated specific transportation data for the region and each municipality in the region in a user-friendly GIS based database to allow people interested in traffic, speed and crash data find, analyze and use the data to develop infrastructure or to address safety concerns. Daryl explained the data he had gathered and demonstrated how one would use the data. While some Commissioners expressed skepticism regarding the validity of any given traffic count and what it might mean for safety, Daryl explained that some data is better than none, that sites used consistently over time produced data that in average corrected itself and was useful, but acknowledged that anyone using the information should keep a skeptical eye on the data and make sure they trust it so they can use it properly. Most Commissioners expressed interest in data available for their towns and were interested in determining how they might best use it in their future planning projects. Daryl noted that currently, he needed to be available to access the data for people and he encouraged people to contact him about it. He noted his long-term goal is to web-enable the data so that all can use it seamlessly.

After demonstrating the database he had built, Daryl continued to present the TAC roadway priorities for the region. Daryl explained that each year the TAC prioritizes its regional roadway priorities for VTrans. VTrans in turn takes the TACs recommendations into account when it is creating its priorities for improving state owned or financed infrastructure within the region. Daryl walked the Commission through the TAC's priority projects. Generally the Commission supported the TAC's chosen priorities; however, it did question why Route 125 east of Middlebury would be the top roadway priority. The Commission felt that most of the work had already been completed on that section of Roadway and that 125 west of Middlebury would be a more appropriate priority. Daryl noted that the TAC considered 125 west of Middlebury an important priority. He stated he would ask the TAC about 125 east and give a response to Adam for the full Commission.

Business Meeting:

- I. Approval of the Minutes: Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved the minutes of the February 13, 2013 meeting. Ellen Kurrelmeyer of Whiting 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 June 12, 2013 (The balance Sheets listed current balances as of today; the monthly budget reflects activity through April). 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. That is a good sign and Adam stated he would keep watching revenues. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's report. **Ellen Kurrelmeyer of Whiting moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Jeremy Grip of Ripton seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

IV. Committee Reports:

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

New Applications:

1. On April 26, 2013 Middle Road Ventures filed an application before the Public Service Board for a Certificate of Public Good to permit the construction of a 500 kW solar generation facility off of Middle Road in Middlebury, Vermont. Interestingly, the PSB has decided to treat this as a full application rather than a limited scope as requested by the Petitioner.
2. On May 29, 2013 John Sherry filed an application for a gravel extraction operation on Route 73/Hathaway Road in Goshen. The District 9 Commission shall treat the application as a minor unless a party objects prior to July 5th.
3. On May 14, 2013 Encore Redevelopment filed an application before the Public Service Board for a Certificate of Public Good to permit the construction of a 150 kW solar generation facility at the Vergennes Wastewater Treatment plant. I expect due to its small size this will be an expedited permit.
4. On May 23, 2013 Claudi Orlandi filed an after the fact application for a dog breeding kennel on Monkton Road in Monkton. The District 9 Commission shall treat the application as a minor unless a party objects prior to June 3rd.
5. On June 12th, 2013 Theodore Palmer filed an application for a construction storage yard on Turkey Lane in Monkton. I expect this will also be treated as a minor application.

Approvals or Denials: None.

Other: None.

Energy: Adam discussed the Municipal Energy Retrofit program. He noted the project was complete and he felt it had gone very well. Adam hopes to pursue another round of funding from Efficiency Vermont soon. One of the delegates asked about the PACE program. Fred Dunnington and Jeremy Grip noted that even though PACE was enabled, it had not moved forward yet, largely because they needed to find funding sources for the program. Adam noted that he would look into the status of PACE and respond to the full Commission at the next meeting.

Local Government: Adam reported that the Committee would meet in Salisbury on July 1, 2013 and then in Cornwall on July 15th.

Natural Resources: The Committee met and reviewed Phase II of the proposed Addison Natural Gas line.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning noted that the committee spent its last meeting finalizing the Region's priorities for State funded transportation projects and reviewing grants it would fund.

- V. **Joint Partners Report:** Harvey noted that economic development had also received a small increase to its budget for the year and had also been able to increase its members and membership revenue for the first time in several years.
- VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Harvey introduced Ted Davis and Ross Conrad as new members representing Middlebury and asked each to say a little about themselves. Ted Davis noted that he has lived in Middlebury a long time, has been active in Town government and worked at the Cooperative Insurance companies. Ross Conrad noted he was also a long-time resident and that he was a bee keeper and board member at the Natural Foods Coop.

Harvey also took time in the meeting to recognize Fred Dunnington. Harvey noted that Fred had been a very active member of the Commission for over 30 years. Fred served as Chair 3 times, had been on the Executive Board numerous times and had also served on nearly every other committee, often multiple committees, over his tenure. Harvey thanked Fred for his advice, participation and service. Bill Sayre also thanked Fred on the Commission's behalf, told some stories highlighting Fred's commitment and participation and praised Fred for his knowledge, his congeniality and engagement. Ellen Kurrelmeyer presented Fred with a token of the Commission's appreciation. Adam also got the chance to thank Fred in public.

VII. **Old Business:**

Town Selection of Delegates and Alternates: Adam noted that he had not received appointment forms from the Towns of Weybridge, Salisbury, Panton and Ferrisburgh and requested that the delegates present from those towns contact their clerk or selectboards and ask them to return the information appointing them for next year. Adam stated he would also reach out to the clerk's to get their appointments.

Adam also reminded delegates that at the July meeting he would be asking them for their committee choices.

Update concerning Vermont Gas pipeline: Adam provided a brief summary of where ACRPC stood in the Vermont Gas process. He also noted that ACRPC had intervened in the process and that discovery was underway. Adam had worked with the Executive Board and the Chairs of each of ACRPC's committees and to create stipulations and or interrogatories based upon the Commission's position adopted in December. He is currently working with Vermont Gas to determine which of the proposed conditions the parties could agree to. He distributed an outline of the proposed stipulations and some notes he had taken based upon his conversations with Vermont Gas concerning whether they would accept the condition,

accept it with modifications or reject it. The Commission had a long discussion going through the document. **At the end of the discussion it empowered Adam to keep negotiating on the items that he felt that he could reach an agreement with Vermont Gas and to file testimony on those that he felt they could not reach an agreement concerning. The Commission also recognized that it did not have the expertise or resources to file specific testimony on a lot of the natural resource based questions that it still had unanswered and instructed Adam to work with ANR and other parties to resolve those issues.**

Adam also stated that he and several of the commissioners present in the room have been part of the working group evaluating siting locations for Phase II of the pipeline. Those discussions are complete. Vermont Gas is going to pursue a route through Cornwall, but is encountering significant opposition.

Other: None.

New Business: Because of the time, Harvey recommended that the Commission adjourn the meeting and postpone other business to the July meeting.

Programs for next year: Postponed to July.

Workplan with the Agency of Commerce: Postponed to July.

Other: None.

IX. Members Concerns: None.

X. Adjourn: Karl Neuse of Middlebury moved to adjourn the meeting, Thea Gaudette of Monkton seconded the motion. The motion, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Adam G. Lougee, Director