

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, September 11, 2013

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at ACRPC's office on 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on September 11, 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>	James Dayton David Raphael
<i>Bristol:</i>	Bill Sayre	<i>Ripton:</i>	
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Jim Duclos	<i>Salisbury:</i>	Tom Scanlon
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	Colin Davis
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren
<i>Leicester:</i>	Lynn Bisbee	<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell David Ludwig	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	David Hamilton Ted Davis Karl Neuse Ross Conrad	<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>	
<i>Otter Creek Natural Resources:</i>	Paul Wagner
<i>Addison County Chamber of Commerce:</i>	

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Harvey Smith
Vice-Chair: Thea Gaudette
Secretary: William Sayre
Treasurer: David Hamilton
At Large: Steve Revell
Andrew Manning
Chico Martin

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 p.m. Public Program: – David Raphael, Landworks – Transportation Study of Monkton Village

Harvey welcomed commission member, David Raphael, an alternate from Pantton to give a presentation on a recent transportation study that Landworks had completed for the Town of Monkton. Harvey noted that ACRPC's Transportation Committee had selected and funded the project with funding that ACRPC had allocated to it to perform local transportation studies. David noted that he had worked with the Planning Commission from the Town of Monkton and that the purpose of the study was to try to use transportation infrastructure to help define Monkton Ridge as a village. David noted that the study area extended along Monkton Ridge from the intersection of Silver Street and Davis Road in the North to the Intersection of Bristol Road and Monkton Road in the South. The study looked at a number of treatments that could help define the village's sense of place and make it a more defined and friendly place to live. Treatments analyzed included: roundabouts at each end of the corridor; sidewalks, center islands; defined access points; reconfiguring the States Prison Hollow Road intersection within the corridor; speed tables and signage. The "Complete streets" analysis was designed to promote alternatives that would make the corridor friendlier to people living in the area. Monkton will pick and choose from the treatments to implement the recommendations. However, Monkton has already used the study to create a park and ride grant application. David answered a number of questions form Commissioners with other towns also interested in promoting the viability of their villages. David concluded at 8:40 and Harvey thanked him for his presentation.

Business Meeting:

- I. Approval of the Minutes: Karl Neuse of Middlebury moved the minutes of the July, 2013 meeting. Thea Gaudette of Monkton seconded the motion. The Commission passed the minutes by voice vote with Andrew Manning abstaining.**
- 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 September 11, 2013 (The balance Sheets listed current balances as of today; the monthly budget reflects activity through fiscal year end, June 30, 2013). Adam explained that unaudited the financials indicate that ACRPC will show about a \$20,000 loss of the year. He noted that while expenses came in roughly as predicted, several grants either did not come in or did not come in until very late in the year. The good news on those grants is that the money is not lost; ACRPC will recoup it in this fiscal year. However, Adam noted he was disappointed to report a slight deficit. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's report. **Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Steve Revell of Lincoln seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**
Act 250: Ellen gave the ACT 250 report as follows:

New Applications:

On August 12, 2013 Green Mountain Power, GMP submitted an Act 250 application for the relocation and construction of 5,742 feet of electric distribution line in Brandon and Leicester. The project moves a line from farm fields to along Town Farm and Delorm Road to improve maintenance accessibility and therefore reliability in the area.

Approvals or Denials:

1. On June 12th, 2013 Theodore Palmer filed an application for a construction storage yard on Turkey Lane in Monkton. The District 9 Environmental Commission issued a permit on July 23, 2013.
2. On June 12th, 2013 John Sherry filed an application for a gravel extraction operation on Route 73 in Goshen. The District 9 Environmental Commission issued a permit on July 18, 2013.

Other: None.

Energy: Adam noted that the Energy Committee had not met recently, but that the Commission had a number of energy related programs coming up in the months of September and October. ACRPC will host a meeting concerning how towns access PACE financing at its office on September 23rd at 5:30 p.m., followed by a meeting of the Local Home Energy Challenge Champions at 7:00 p.m. concerning their progress and future steps to continue to implement the home energy challenge and to also plan for the October 5th Button Up Vermont Day of Action for communities. Also, on September 25, 2013, ACRPC will host a Zoning Administrator's Roundtable that will focus on how Zoning Administrator's administer the new requirement that they secure certifications from contractors stating that structures meet Vermont's Energy Code prior to issuing CO's for the structure and to discuss opportunities to promote above code building.

Local Government: Thea asked that this report be deferred until new business.

Natural Resources: Dave Hamilton reported that the committee would be reconvening the time at which it meets to accommodate more members' participation. The Committee will meet bi-monthly, with the next meeting scheduled for September 24th.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC reviewed and approve a proposed grant proposal from the Town of Ripton to study the viability of using the Old Center Turnpike as an emergency alternative to Route 125 and to plan to preserve the Turnpike before it automatically expires based on the ancient road legislation.

- V. **Joint Partners Report:** Harvey noted he did not have a report from Addison County Economic Development.

VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights: Adam directed the Commission to the project highlights he had handed out earlier. He focused on Daryl's project highlight. Daryl's research paper concluded that radar speed signs can be effective in reducing speeds in certain locations and should be considered as a low cost solution to controlling speeds on certain types of local roads. Adam offered commissioners that had expressed interest in controlling speed in their villages during the earlier presentation copies of the full study.

VII. Old Business:

Update concerning Vermont Gas pipeline: Adam referred the commission to the handouts sent with the agenda. He stated that ACRPC had reached a Memorandum of Understanding with Vermont Gas. Under the MOU, Vermont gas had agreed to comply with certain conditions, like providing villages along the proposed transmission line with access to natural gas distribution system and in exchange for those conditions had agreed to support the pipeline. Adam noted that hearings were next week. Adam noted that ACRPC's proposed testimony was included in the package and offered to take questions. A recently appointed member of the Commission asked whether the Memorandum of Understanding constituted a firm commitment of the Commission. Steve Revell, with the support of many other Commissioners responded that ACRPC had been negotiating the terms of that agreement for over 6 months and that all of the terms included in the MOU stemmed from the Committee reports adopted by the full commission after a year of work. At the previous meeting in July 2013, the Commission had voted to authorize the Executive Board to approve and sign the MOU. He concluded stating that the agreement is final.

Committee Assignments: Adam noted that the Executive Board had made committee assignments based upon the requests they had received. Copies of the Committee assignments were distributed with the agenda package. Harvey asked if anyone had any questions or concerns. He noted that if people had not responded previously, but wanted to participate on a committee, that they could still contact Adam or a member of the Executive Board and request to be placed on a committee.

Orientation Manuals: Adam noted that he had not completed them for this meeting and would distribute them at the next meeting.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business:

Vote on the Confirmation of the planning process in Cornwall and regional approval of the Cornwall Town Plan: Thea Gaudette, Local Government Committee Chair, discussed the recent hearing in Cornwall on regional approval of their adopted town plan. She noted that just as the state recently reviewed our regional plan, municipal plans are also reviewed. The regional commission confirms that municipalities are involved in an ongoing planning process and that municipal plans adhere to the statutory elements under 24 VSA § 4382.

Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved to confirm Cornwall's planning process and approve the Cornwall Town Plan. Ellen Kurrelmeyer of Whiting seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.

Vote on the Confirmation of the planning process in Bristol and regional approval of the Bristol Town Plan: Thea Gaudette, Local Government Committee Chair, discussed the recent hearing in Bristol on regional approval of their adopted town plan. **Thea then moved to confirm Bristol's planning process and approve the Bristol Town Plan. Ellen Kurrelmeyer of Whiting seconds the motion, which passes unanimously.**

Other: Kevin Behm announced that there would be a meeting concerning proposed shoreline legislation at the American Legion in Middlebury on September 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

IX. Members Concerns: None.

X. Adjourn: Charlie Huizenga of Monkton moved to adjourn the meeting, Thea Gaudette seconded the motion. The motion, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Adam Lougee, Director