

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, October 9, 2013

ACRPC held its Monthly Meeting at ACRPC's office on 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury on October 9, 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
<i>Bristol:</i>	Bill Sayre Peter Grant Garland "Chico" Martin	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>		<i>Salisbury:</i>	Tom Scanlon
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren
<i>Leicester:</i>	Lynn Bisbee	<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	David Ludwig	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	David Hamilton Karl Neuse Ross Conrad	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette	<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: Adam Lougee, ACRPC's Executive Director welcomed ACRPC's guest for the evening The Honorable Judge Walsh and Court Manager, Jacalyn Fletcher, of the State of Vermont Environmental Court. The Judge and Court Manager joined the Commission to discuss the roles of municipalities and regional planning commissions in the Environmental Court. The Judge and Ms. Fletcher presented an overview of the court and court process, especially as it applies to municipal cases and then open the floor to questions regarding the Court's process, operations and general casework.¹ A copy of the PowerPoint of the Judge's presentation and the handouts that Ms. Fletcher distributed are available on ACRPC's website at <http://acrpc.org/presentations/>. Judge Walsh and Ms. Fletcher answered a number of questions from Commissioners regarding process and activity before the court, especially surrounding the mediation process and the merits of a de novo review vs. "on the record review. The Judge and Ms. Fletcher concluded at 9:05 and Harvey thanked them for their presentation.

Business Meeting:

- I. Approval of the Minutes:** Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved the minutes of the September 11, 2013 meeting. Peter Grant of Bristol seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously passed the minutes by voice vote.
- 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 October 9, 2013 (The balance Sheets listed current balances as of today; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of September 2013). Adam noted that while our account balances are down somewhat, our receivables are very strong. Once collected, they will bring the account balances back into line with their traditional levels. Adam also noted that our revenues have exceeded our expenses year to date. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's report. **Chico Martin of Bristol moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Peter Grant of Bristol seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
- IV. Old Business:**

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 September agenda package. 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 distributed 10 hard copies of an orientation manual for the commission. He encouraged new commission members to take them. He also noted that the

¹ The Judge will not be able to discuss specific cases currently pending in Environmental court. However, he will be able to address general and/or hypothetical questions.

Manual is available online at ACRPC's website at www.acrpc.org. He noted he would be happy to make more or answer any questions members had regarding the manual.

Other: Update concerning Vermont Gas pipeline: Adam noted that legal Briefs on the Phase I project were due on October 11th. He stated he intended to submit a short brief on behalf of the commission. The brief would urge the PSB to adopt the MOU the Commission executed with Vermont Gas and would also support our previous testimony that Vermont Gas should supply gas detectors and non-sparking tools to the Region's first responders.

Adam also announced that Vermont Gas had issued a letter giving the region 45 day notice of its intent to file for Phase II of the ANGP through Middlebury, Cornwall and Shoreham to the International Paper Plant in Fort Ticonderoga, NY. He noted that he had discussed the filing with the executive Board and that he would like to proceed in committee work much like ACRPC preceded in Phase I. He would ask each Committee to review the pre-filing letter and Route and to evaluate the proposal from the perspective of the Region focusing on that Committee's area of inquiry (i.e. Natural Resources, Energy, Emergency Management, Orderly Development with the Region "Act 250 Committee"). He also noted that he had tentatively scheduled for Vermont Gas to attend the November 13th full Commission Meeting and present their plan. He hoped each committee would be able to conduct their review by that time to allow each to comment or ask questions of Vermont Gas as appropriate.

Other: None.

V. New Business:

Other: Ross Conrad suggested the Commission might be able to save some money by doing a "review" of its financials every other year supplemented by full audits every 3rd year. Adam noted it was a good suggestion, but unfortunately our funding contracts demand a full audit within six months of the end of each year.

VI. Members Concerns: Harvey announced the Town of New Haven was having a harvest celebration at the Tourtorelle restaurant on October 20th from noon to 3:00 featuring all foods grown on farms within the Town of New Haven.

VII. Adjourn: Thea Gaudette of Monkton moved to adjourn the meeting, Ellen Kurrelmeyer of Whiting seconded the motion. The motion, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Adam Lougee, Director