

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, February 12, 2014

ACRPC held its monthly meeting at ACRPC's office on 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury with Chair, Harvey Smith of New Haven, and Vice Chair, Thea Gaudette of Monkton presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Ed Payne Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	William Sayre Peter Grant Garland "Chico" Martin	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Jim Duclos Holly Noordsy Stan Grzyb	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	Colin Davis
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren
<i>Leicester:</i>	Diane Benware Randy Bisbee	<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	David Hamilton Ross Conrad	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith Jim Walsh Rod Case		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:
Addison County Economic Development Corp: Harvey Smith
Otter Creek Audubon Society:
Otter Creek Natural Resources: Paul Wagner
Addison County Chamber of Commerce:

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: Thea Gaudette, ACRPC's Vice Chair welcomed the commission's guests for the evening, Norton La Tourelle of Orwell and Bobbie Cornwath of Middlebury. Both asked to speak against the proposed Phase II of the Vermont Gas pipeline. Norton went first, thanked Thea, and began his discussion of Vermont Gas Systems' ("VGS") proposed project. Norton's presentation is attached as <http://acrpc.org/presentations/>.

Bobbie Cornwath of Middlebury spoke next. Her presentation is also attached above.

Thea then opened the floor for questions and comments. These minutes summarize the discussion surrounding the presentation.

Paul Wagner spoke first. He noted that the paper mill across the lake makes the paper we are using in this meeting. It is very heavily regulated. 20 % of the wood used to make the paper comes from Vermont. He noted natural gas will burn cleaner than the oil IP currently burns. He also noted that the Pete Farm and the Barnes Farm have the ability to produce bio-gas and sell it to VGS. He believes the pipeline is good for business.

Norton LaTourelle responded that he was not convinced the gas would make the paper mill better off. He also noted he felt land values would drop and that VGS has not considered that loss of value in the easement prices they are offering.

Ellen Kurrlemeyer asked whether farms could sell bio-methane into the pipeline.

Norton LaTourelle responded that it was possible depending upon their location, but if they were not near a proposed gate station or distribution network, it would be expensive to tap into the transmission line.

David Hamilton asked whether there is any indication that any other large user close to Rutland would be willing to pay money, like IP, to move the gas to Rutland more quickly.

No one knew of any existing offers.

Another Commissioner ("BC") asked whether the volatility of any single fuel constitutes a good argument for adding an additional option to the diversity of fuels available?

Bobbie answered that it was, but that other better options existed than creating this infrastructure. She also noted that natural gas will be as subject to pricing fluctuations as oil and propane.

The presentation concluded at 8:40 p.m. and Thea thanked Norton and Bobbie for joining the Commission.

Business Meeting:

After a short break, Harvey Smith restarted the business meeting at 8:45. Harvey took the opportunity to speak about conflict of interest. He noted that he remained confident that he did not have an actual conflict of interest on the Vermont Gas line. However, he recognized how some could perceive a conflict. He noted that because of this perception and his desire to have the Commission review Phase 2 of the Vermont Gas Pipeline on its merits, he would get out of the way so the commission could focus on the substance of the discussion and recuse himself from activities concerning the Vermont Gas Phase II project. He noted this was why he had not participated in the previous discussion and had asked Thea to chair the meeting for him whenever issues involving Vermont Gas arose.

- I. Approval of the Minutes: Peter Grant of Bristol moved the minutes. Steve Revell seconded them. The Commission passed the minutes by voice vote, with 7 members abstaining.**
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Harvey noted that they were in the package for the information of the Commission. He offered to answer any questions regarding the Executive Board minutes. Hearing no questions, he moved on.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam handed out the treasurer's report dated as of February 12, 2014 (The balance Sheets listed current balances as of today; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of January, 2014). Adam noted that this month, revenues had moved back ahead of expenditures, but noted that was largely because of some new receivables we were able to bill up front. He noted cash on our accounts was down, but that the receivables billed should allow us to catch up shortly. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's report. **Steve Revell of Lincoln moved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. David Hamilton of Middlebury seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor except for one abstention by Jim Walsh, a new delegate from New Haven.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**

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

New Applications:

1. On January 3, 2014 Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region filed an application through their engineers, Champlain Consulting, with plans to construct a health center on a 2.5 acre parcel on Route 22A in Shoreham. On January 14, 2014 the District Environmental Commission issued a Notice that they would treat the application as a minor unless a person notifies the commission of an issue and requests a hearing on or before 2/5/14.
2. On January 31, 2014 Agri-Mark Cabot Creamery on Exchange Street in Middlebury filed a permit amendment requesting to add an additional boiler for its plant to allow it to convert to natural gas.
3. On January 24, 2014 Liblaze Properties/Associates in Orthodontics filed an application to construct an office on Lot MU6 of the Middlebury South Village PUD on Middle Road in Middlebury. On February 3, 2014 the District Environmental Commission issued a

Notice that they would treat the application as a minor unless a person notifies the commission of an issue and requests a hearing on or before February 28th, 2014.

4. On February 5, 2014 ACRPC received a notice from Bridport Solar Holdings, LLC that it intends to apply for a permit from the Public Service Board pursuant to Title 30, Section 248 for a solar facility with a capacity of 2 Megawatts to be located on 11 acres on the southwest corner of Route 22A and Town Line Road in Bridport.
5. On February 10, 2014 ACRPC received a notice from Champlain Valley Solar Farm, LLC that it intends to apply for a permit from the Public Service Board pursuant to Title 30, Section 248 for a solar facility with a capacity of 2.2 Megawatts to be located on land to the west of properties located at 2242-2428 Route 7 in Middlebury.

Approvals or Denials: None.

Other: None.

Energy: Jeremy Grip will send out an e-mail to schedule another meeting soon after tonight's meeting.

Local Government: The local government Committee did not meet.

Natural Resources: David Hamilton noted the Natural Resource Committee met to discuss Vermont Gas. It concluded that the proposed pipeline would improve air quality within the Region by reducing emissions from IP. It also concluded that green house gas emissions remained an open question and it could not challenge the logic of the Board's decision in the Phase I order. Lastly, it found it did not have the expertise to discuss the lake crossing and would leave that position to the State Agencies that are party to the proceeding, namely the Agency of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Service.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC had devoted its last meeting to prioritizing district leveling (paving) projects.

Plan Rewrite Committee: Adam noted the committee had not met, but he would be scheduling a meeting shortly.

V. Joint Partners Report: None.

VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights: Thea Gaudette recognized Daryl Benoit for his help to the Town of Monkton on the \$56,000 park and ride grant it had just been awarded.

VII. Old Business:

ACRPC Statement for Town Annual Reports: Adam brought the Commission's attention to the page it had created and requested that towns publish in their Annual Report. He noted one page does not allow ACRPC to provide a detailed account of its activities, but the report

does constitute a good summary of the types of work ACRPC accomplished in the 2013 fiscal year.

Energy Planning/Siting Commission. Adam noted that last summer a summer study Committee had created a report suggesting that RPCs become the focal point in a planning process that would create siting areas for energy generating facilities within each region. That recommendation is before the legislature currently in the form of a bill. Not sure how things will turn out. RPC's have generally supported the planning process up front. They also believe that DPS will provide some funding to rewrite the Energy Section of the plan to do it.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business:

Other: None.

IX. Member Concerns and Information: Thea reported that several property owners in the Town of Monkton felt that Vermont Gas was not negotiating in good faith when purchasing easements for the pipeline. She noted that Vermont Gas had threatened them with eminent domain and the Selectboard was asking for ACRPC's help. **Adam noted that he would review ACRPC's memorandum of understanding with Vermont Gas and determine what ACRPC could do, but he would contact Vermont Gas to support Monkton and register the Commission's concerns. He will report back to the Executive Board at its next meeting.**

X. Adjourn: Jeremy Grip moved adjournment. Steve Revell seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:35.

Respectfully Submitted:

Adam Lougee, Director