

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

ACRPC held its monthly meeting at ACRPC's office on 14 Seminary Street in Middlebury with the Chair, Thea Gaudette of Monkton, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Edward Payne
Andrew Manning

Orwell:

Panton: James Dayton

Bristol: Peter Grant
Garland "Chico" Martin

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Cornwall: Jim Duclos
Holly Noordsy

Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Mary Anne Sullivan

Ferrisburgh: Tim Davis
Arrabella Holzapfel

Shoreham: Nick Causton

Starksboro:

Goshen: Jim Pulver

Vergennes: Mel Hawley
Shannon Haggett

Leicester: Diane Benware
Ron Fiske

Waltham:

Lincoln: Steve Revell

Weybridge: Ron Crawford

Middlebury: Karl Neuse
David Hamilton
Kathleen Ramsay
Ross Conrad

Whiting:

Monkton: Thea Gaudette
Wendy Sue Harper
Steve Pilcher

New Haven: Harvey Smith
Jim Walsh

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:

Kent Wright

Addison County Economic Development Corp:

Harvey Smith

Otter Creek Audubon Society:

Diane Carter

Otter Creek Natural Resources:

Paul Wagner

Addison County Chamber of Commerce:

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Thea Gaudette

Vice-Chair: Jeremy Grip

Secretary: William Sayre

Treasurer: David Hamilton

At Large: Ted Davis
Andrew Manning
Chico Martin

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee

Assistant Director/GIS Manager: Kevin Behm

EM/Senior Planner: Tim Bouton

Transportation Planner:

Land use Planner: Claire Tebbs

Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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7:30 p.m. Program: This month, the Commission welcomed Rick Chase of TDI New England as its guest. Mr. Chase is a Principal at TDI New England where he focuses on stakeholder outreach, informing local public officials, citizens, stakeholder groups and landowners of TDI's plans to develop the New England Clean Power Link. The Clean Power Link is a proposed 154 mile transmission line that would deliver 1,000 MW of hydroelectricity to Vermont and the New England market. The line is being developed with private sector financing by TDI NE. It would originate at the U.S. – Canadian border and travel underwater down Lake Champlain to Benson, Vermont and through existing road rights-of-way to a new converter station that would be built in Ludlow, Vermont. Mr. Chase holds a similar position for Transmission Developers Inc., the company proposing to build a similar project in New York State. Mr. Chase explained details of the proposed project and its proposed timeline. A copy of the presentation is available on ACRPC's website at www.acrpc.org.

Business Meeting:

Thea opened the business meeting at 9:00 p.m.

- I. Approval of the October 8, 2014 minutes:** Peter Grant of Bristol moved approval of the October minutes. Wendy Sue Harper of Monkton seconded them. Ross Conrad noted two typographical corrections. All agreed to the proposed corrections and the minutes passed unanimously by voice vote.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Thea noted that the Executive Board minutes for the months of October are in the package for the information of the Commission. Thea noted that anyone with questions regarding the Executive Board minutes could speak with a member of the Executive Board or to Adam and moved on to the next item on the agenda.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam noted that the Treasurer's report dated as of November 12, 2014 (The Balance Sheet listed current balances as of November 12, 2014; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of October, 2014). Focusing on this year through October Adam noted that revenues are ahead of expenses. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's report. **Peter Grant of Bristol moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Wendy Sue Harper of Monkton seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote, with Ross Conrad abstaining.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**

Act 250: Due to the absence of the chair, Adam gave the Act 250 report as follows:

New Applications:

1. On October 15, an Act 250 application was received from Phoenix Feeds and Nutrition & Newton Holdings LLC for modification of an existing and approved feed mill to include exterior improvements for new equipment, drags, spouts and bins. It has been determined to be a "minor" application with no hearing unless requested before 11/21/14.

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting



2. On October 20, a 45 day notice letter pursuant to Section 248 was received from TDI New England for the New England Clean Power Link Electric Transmission Project which includes construction of a 1000 megawatt underground and underwater DC transmission line from the Canadian border to a converter station in Ludlow, VT
3. On November 12, a 45 day notice letter was received from Green Peak Solar LLC for construction of the “Next Generation Solar Farm LLC”, a 2.2 megawatt facility proposed for Field Days Road in New Haven.

Approvals or Denials:

1. On October 20, 2014, the District Environmental Commission #9 issued an administrative amendment to extend the construction completion date for the Country Commons LLC development in Vergennes.
2. On October 21, 2014 the Public Service Board entered an order to approve construction of a 2.2 megawatt solar generation facility off Route #7 in Middlebury known as the “Champlain Valley Solar Farm”.
3. On October 22, 2014 the District Environmental Commission #9 issued an administrative amendment to include #WW-0-0682-3 for a previously approved land use permit #9A0301 issued to D. Chad and Michelle Perlee.

Other:

1. The committee met on 10/7/2014 to make recommendations for testimony on and weighed in on Criteria 5, 8, and 10 at a 10/23 hearing for a proposed Deneker Chevrolet dealership next to the Park and Ride on Rte 22A in Ferrisburgh. Copies of that testimony and the committee’s proposed 9L testimony (item #2) are available as handouts.
2. The committee met on 11/7 to approve the Criterion 9L Deneker testimony and discuss whether solar generation constitutes “substantial regional impact” as defined by the regional plan. The committee determined that it does and that the committee will review all proposed solar generation projects that equal or exceed 150kw in size. At this meeting, the committee also decided to wait until the presentation at the full commission meeting to determine any questions and/or actions to take on the proposed New England Clean Power Link transmission line.

Proposed testimony in the Deneker Chevrolet application to construct a new facility at the corner of Route 7 and Route 22A: Chico Martin moved that the full Commission approve the proposed testimony recommended to it by the Act 250 Committee in the above noted application. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion. During discussion, Mel Hawley of Vergennes asked whether the project had received local support and permits. Tim

Davis of Ferrisburgh noted that Ferrisburgh had approved the project. After limited further discussion, the Commission voted to approve the testimony proposed by the committee to be filed on its behalf by staff.

Energy: Jeremy noted the committee met on October 30th and sponsored a presentation featuring four speakers discussing best practices for Siting Solar facilities. About 50 residents attended the meeting and enjoyed a productive and thoughtful discussion. Jeremy noted the Commission will follow up the meeting by discussing creating a proposed template on aesthetic criteria towns may consider to encourage good siting within their municipalities.

Local Government: Thea deferred until later in the agenda.

Natural Resources: Wendy Sue stated that the committee met just before the full Commission meeting and discussed projects for the committee in 2015.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC did not meet in October. Its next meeting will be November 19, 2014.

Plan Re-write: Thea noted that the committee had met just prior to the meeting tonight and had completed its work on the Future Land Use section of the plan. It will continue to work on that section at its next meeting.

V. **Joint Partner's Report:** None.

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Adam distributed project highlights and focused on the web-related work Kevin Behm has been doing.

VII. **Old Business:**

Vermont Gas, Phase II Pipeline Update: Adam updated the Commission on where the project stood. He noted that Phase I of the project had been remanded back to the Public Service Board from the Supreme Court for a hearing on the cost overruns. That hearing had taken place in September. The Board found that the cost overruns did not affect its decision. Vermont Gas also secured its FERC waiver of jurisdiction. Nevertheless, it appears that the Board will not hold hearings until January. Lastly, Vermont gas had recently sent letters to the Towns of Salisbury, Leicester and Whiting inviting them to participate in a siting committee to discuss the location of a proposed third Phase of the pipeline to Rutland.

Transportation Planner Update. Adam noted that he had made an offer, but that the candidate chose another job in the Burlington market, so he was back looking for candidates.

Other: None.

VIII. **New Business:**

Vote Regarding the confirmation of Vergennes Planning Process and the approval of the Vergennes City Plan. Thea Gaudette noted that the Local Government Committee had held a joint public hearing with the Vergennes Planning Commission on the newly adopted Vergennes City Plan. After the hearing, the Committee found that Vergennes is engaging in a thoughtful planning process and that the Vergennes City Plan had met all criteria necessary for its approval by ACRPC. **Steve Pilcher of Monkton moved that the full commission confirm Vergennes Planning process and regionally approve the Vergennes City Plan. Andrew Manning seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Other. None.

IX. **Member Concerns and Information:** Steve Revell noted that we need to control the length of our speakers' time.

Paul Wagner asked about work that appeared to be taking place in the wetlands at the Junction of Routes 7 and 17. Someone responded that the work was related to Phase I of the Vermont Gas pipeline.

X. **Adjourn: Peter Grant moved to adjourn. Harvey Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee