

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, January 14, 2015

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
William Sayre

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Cornwall: Jim Duclos
Stan Gryzb

Salisbury: Tom Scanlon

Ferrisburgh: Arrabella Holzafel
Tim Davis

Shoreham: Nick Causton

Goshen: Jim Pulver

Starksboro: Richard Warren

Leicester: Diane Benware
Ron Fiske

Vergennes: Mel Hawley

Lincoln: Steve Revell

Waltham:

Middlebury: Karl Neuse
David Hamilton
Ted Davis
Ross Conrad

Weybridge: Ron Crawford

Monkton: Thea Gaudette
Wendy Sue Harper
Steve Pilcher

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

New Haven: Jim Walsh
Susan Smiley

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:

Addison County Economic Development Corp:

Otter Creek Audubon Society:

Otter Creek Natural Resources:

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

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting:

Thea opened the business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

- I. Approval of the November 12, 2014 minutes:** Steve Pilcher of Monkton moved approval of the November minutes, as amended to include two corrections suggested by Ross Conrad. Wendy Sue Harper of Monkton seconded the amended minutes. 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 December 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 January 14, 2015 (The Balance Sheet listed current balances as of January 14, 2015; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of December 2014). Focusing on this year through December, Adam noted that revenues are slightly behind expenses. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's report. **Tom Scanlon of Salisbury moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ron Crawford of Weybridge seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**

Act 250: Adam gave the Act 250 report. First, he noted that the Committee recommended that the full commission intervene in the TDI New England proposal. Karl Neuse moved to approve the recommendation for intervention. Ted Davis seconded the motion.

Mel Hawley of Vergennes questioned whether the towns' jurisdiction extended to the center of the lake and felt that lake towns should work together on this issue.

Karl noted that he felt significant questions regarding the tax benefits of this project existed for the lake towns and ACRPC should investigate them.

On a voice vote, the Commission appeared to support the motion. Mel Hawley of Vergennes requested a roll call vote. That vote proceeded as follows:

Should the Commission intervene in the TDI New England case before the public Service Board?

<i>Town</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Addison:</i>				
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne			x
	Andrew Manning		x	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant		x	
	William Sayre		x	
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Jim Duclos		x	
	Stan Gryzb		x	

<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Arrabella Holzafel	x	
	Tim Davis	x	
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	x	
<i>Leicester:</i>	Diane Benware	x	
	Ron Fiske	x	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	x	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Karl Neuse	x	
	David Hamilton	x	
	Ted Davis	x	
	Ross Conrad		
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette		
	Wendy Sue Harper	x	
	Steve Pilcher		
<i>New Haven:</i>	Jim Walsh	x	
	Susan Smiley	x	
<i>Orwell:</i>			
<i>Panton:</i>	James Dayton	x	
<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip	x	
<i>Salisbury:</i>	Tom Scanlon	x	
<i>Shoreham:</i>	Nick Causton	x	
<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren	x	
<i>Vergennes:</i>	Mel Hawley		x
<i>Waltham:</i>			
<i>Weybridge:</i>	Ron Crawford	x	
<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer	x	

The motion passed 24-2.

Next Adam explained that the Committee had also recommended intervening on every solar array proposed greater than 150 kW. Adam noted that he opposed this motion because he did not believe the commission had the resources to materially participate in every application.

Adam suggested that instead the Committee should keep reviewing each application, but vote to intervene on a case by case basis as was the current practice. After some discussion, Jeremy Grip of Ripton moved that the Committee retain its current practice of reviewing each application and making its decisions on how to participate on a case by case basis and reject the committee recommendation. Karl Neuse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Energy: Jeremy noted the Committee met on December 4, 2014 to discuss a proposed template on aesthetic criteria towns may consider to encourage good solar siting within their municipalities. Jeremy presented the memorandum and requested permission to send it to member municipalities. Jim Walsh suggested that the Committee amend the memo to include arrays down to 100 kW in size to catch all of the arrays with potential impacts. The full commission instructed the committee to meet one more time and then to send out the memo.

Local Government: No meeting.

Natural Resources: Wendy Sue stated that the Committee would be looking at the significant regional resources within the regional plan and making recommendations to the Plan Rewrite Committee. She noted that the next meeting would be in March.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC did not meet in December. Its next meeting will be January 21, 2015.

Plan Re-write: Thea noted that the committee is working 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:** Richard Warren asked that the Commission recognize the good work that Daryl Benoit, the former transportation planner had done on its behalf.

VII. **Old Business:**

Transportation Planner Update. Adam noted that he had hired a new transportation planner. His name is Josh Donabedian. Josh has a Masters in Environmental Policy and a JD from Vermont Law School. Adam noted he believed Josh would be a good writer, a good communicator and a strong addition to the staff. Josh will attend the TAC meeting next week and start on January 26th.

Audit Report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2014. Adam noted that ACPRC's auditor had completed the audit for FY 2014 ending June 30, 2014. Vance Debouter, the auditor had spent considerable time reviewing the audit findings with the Executive Board at its last

meeting. The audit was a clean audit with no adverse findings. The Executive Board had approved the audit as final.

Other: Stan Gryzb requested that Adam discuss the status of the Vermont Gas pipeline. Adam noted that at the end of December, Vermont Gas had announced its second significant cost increase on Phase I of the pipeline. The Public Service Department has again requested that the Supreme Court remand the case to the Public Service Board to re-evaluate its decision in Phase 1. Adam spoke with Louise Porter the attorney for the Department and conveyed ACRPC's support for the Department's position.

In the meantime, Phase 2 is on hold awaiting the outcome of Phase 1. Stan Gryzb also announced that contrary to what people may have read in the paper, Cornwall had never entered into an MOA with Vermont Gas and did not intend to without approval of the voters. Stan also noted that he felt ACRPC should participate in the Phase 1 remand. Adam noted that the Commission needed to wait to see what happened procedurally, but that he was inclined to follow the Department's lead.

HMGP Planning Grant: Adam also announced that he had recently received good news from Vermont Emergency Management that the Hazard Mitigation Planning Grants ACRPC had applied for had been approved federally and that VEM expected to issue contracts within a couple of months.

VIII. **New Business:**

Vote on Municipal Dues: Adam introduced a proposal for municipal dues the fiscal year starting July 1, 2015 that included a modest 3-cent per capita increase. The biggest increase to any municipality would be less than \$200/year. He noted ACRPC lost money last year, that its expenses had increased and that it wanted to maintain a moderate level of support from its municipalities. **Ed Payne moved to approve the increase. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion.**

Mel Hawley of Vergennes spoke against the increase noting that ACRPC had a substantial fund balance.

Tim Davis of Ferrisburgh also spoke against the increase, noting that Ferrisburgh was unhappy with ACRPC over the Denecker Chevrolet application.

Steve Pilcher of Monkton noted that Monkton received support well in excess of its contribution. Tom Scanlon and Jeremy Grip also spoke in favor of the services provided compared to the dues.

At the Conclusion of discussion, the motion carried on a voice vote.

Other. None.

IX. Member Concerns and Information: Ed Payne noted that he felt the Commission should support the Town of Ferrisburgh and work against the new Criterion 9(L) guidance in the Act 250 process. Adam noted that the Executive Board had requested that he draft comments to the Natural Resources Board on its behalf and they would review them at the end of the month.

X. Adjourn: Peter Grant moved to adjourn. Tom Scanlon seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee