

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, February 11, 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:

Bristol: Garland "Chico" Martin
William Sayre

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Cornwall: Jim Duclos
Stan Gryzb

Salisbury: Mary Anne Sullivan

Ferrisburgh: Tim Davis

Shoreham: Nick Causton

Starksboro: Richard Warren

Goshen: Jim Pulver

Vergennes: Mel Hawley

Leicester: Ron Fiske

Waltham:

Lincoln:

Weybridge: Ron Crawford

Middlebury: Ted Davis
Kathleen Ramsay
Ross Conrad

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

Monkton: Thea Gaudette
Wendy Sue Harper

New Haven: Harvey Smith
Jim Walsh
Susan Smiley

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:

Charles Roy

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: 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: Josh Donabedian

Land use Planner: Claire Tebbs

Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino

7:30 p.m. Presentation: Kevin Behm, ACRPC's Assistant Director, walked the group through a number of the mapping based planning resources that ACRPC provides links to on its website and that would be useful to each commissioner with a role in Land Use Planning within their municipality. Kevin walked the commission through several different programs, including the Agency of Natural Resources Atlas locating natural resources including forest resources, a couple VTrans websites showing transportation information and ACRPC's own program it had created to allow people to search vehicle crashes within the region and sort by variables to mine the data for ways to improve traffic safety. The link to the Addison Crash information is as follows; <http://acrpc.org/crash-data/>. Links to other planning and GIS information are located at <http://acrpc.org/resources/acrpc-library/>. After his presentation, Thea thanked Kevin and called a short break before beginning the business meeting.

8:40 p.m. Business Meeting:

Thea opened the business meeting at 8:40 p.m.

- I. Approval of the January 14, 2015 minutes: Peter Grant of Bristol moved approval of the January minutes. Ron Crawford of Weybridge seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote with Mary Anne Sullivan abstaining.**
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Thea noted that the Executive Board minutes for the month of January 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 February 11, 2015 (The Balance Sheet listed current balances as of February 11, 2015; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of January 2015). Focusing on this year through January, Adam noted that revenues are slightly ahead of expenses. However, Adam noted that we had included the Agency of Commerce's payment for the quarter ending in March as a receivable and included the dues received for the entire year. Given these prepayments, revenues should be further ahead than they are. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's report. **Harvey Smith of New Haven moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Chico Martin of Bristol seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**

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

Applications:

 1. On February 10, 2015 ACRPC received an application from All Sun Solar LLC to install a 500kw solar array on Comfort Hill in Vergennes. This meets the 150kw and larger threshold the committee has identified.
 2. Also on February 10, 2015 ACRPC received notice from Vermont Gas that requests the withdrawal of their Phase II application. Following a new cost estimate that would have increased International Paper's share of Phase II from \$99 million to \$135 million, IP elected to withdraw from its agreement with VT Gas. Without IP's involvement, VT Gas does not need to build Phase II as planned.

Other:

Tim and Adam are slowly wading through the TDI application to find the answers to the questions posed by the committee in its last meeting. Once we have compiled the responses, Tim will send out a copy.

Energy: Jeremy noted the Committee would meet on February 19, 2015 to finalize a proposed template on aesthetic criteria towns may consider to encourage good solar siting within their municipalities and to take up other committee business.

Local Government: No meeting.

Natural Resources: Wendy Sue stated that the Committee will continue to review the significant regional resources within the regional plan and make 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 met on January 21, 2015. Its primary item of business was to prioritize state roadways for the district leveling program (i.e. what state highways in the Region should VTrans pave in what order?). The next TAC meeting in February will be spent prioritizing other State roadway and bridge programs.

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:** Adam spoke about ACRPC's new Transportation Planner, Josh Donabedian, noting he had started last month and was progressing nicely. Adam also asked Susan Smiley, a new Alternate from New Haven to say a few words about herself. When she concluded, Thea welcomed Susan to the Commission.

VII. **Old Business:**

ACRPC Annual Report to Towns and Mid-Year Report to Agency of Commerce: Adam included a copy of ACRPC's mid-year report to the towns for inclusion in their Annual Reports in the package that went out. He noted he felt it served as a good summary of all of the types of work ACRPC did in different municipalities over the course of the year. He noted ACRPC had also recently submitted its mid-year report to the Agency of Commerce.

Other: Adam discussed 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. Adam noted that he expects the Supreme Court will remand that case back to the Public Service Board, but no schedule has been set. In the meantime, Vermont Gas has also announced that it would cancel Phase 2 of the project. Stan reiterated 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. Thea assured both Ross and Stan that ACRPC would do its due diligence and independently look at the cost benefit of the Phase I. Ross Conrad specifically noted ACRPC should look at the projected number of customers contained in the Phase I filing.

VIII. New Business:

Discussion Regarding ACRPC's Role in Water Quality Planning:

Adam noted that water quality, particularly the phosphorus levels in Lake Champlain were a high priority in the legislature this year. Adam noted that ACRPC had been doing a lot of natural resources work, largely funded by dues or Agency of Commerce funding. He noted that this bill provided both a list of duties and potential funding for RPCs. He distributed the portion of the bill containing the list of duties to be undertaken by each RPC. For the most part, the duties consisted of the outreach and education ACRPC has already been doing. The Commission generally supported ACRPC securing funding to expand the mission task contained within the proposed bill. Harvey expressed concern about other portions of the bill and their impact on the agricultural community. He noted it is a very big document that will change rapidly and that his committee will have some time to look at it in the following week.

Other. None.

IX. Member Concerns and Information: None.

X. Adjourn: Chico Martin moved to adjourn. Mary Anne Sullivan seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee