

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Addison County Regional Planning Commission**  
**Wednesday, April 8, 2015**

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

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**ROLL CALL:**

*Addison:*

*Bridport:* Edward Payne  
Andrew Manning

*Bristol:* Peter Grant  
William Sayre  
Chico Martin

*Cornwall:* Jim Duclos  
Holly Noordsy  
Stan Grzyb

*Ferrisburgh:* Tim Davis  
Arabella Holzapfel

*Goshen:*

*Leicester:* Diane Benware  
Ron Fiske

*Lincoln:*

*Middlebury:* Karl Neuse  
Ted Davis  
David Hamilton  
Ross Conrad

*Monkton:* Thea Gaudette  
Steve Pilcher

*New Haven:*

Susan Smiley

*Orwell:*

*Panton:* James Dayton

*Ripton:* Jeremy Grip

*Salisbury:* Mary Anne Sullivan  
Tom Scanlon

*Shoreham:* Nick Causton

*Starksboro:*

*Vergennes:* Mel Hawley

*Waltham:*

*Weybridge:*

*Whiting:* Ellen Kurrelmeyer

**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:*

Diana Carter

Paul Wagner

**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. Business Meeting:**

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

- I. Approval of the March 11, 2015 minutes:** Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved approval of the March minutes. Ross Conrad seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote with Arabella Holzafel abstaining.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Thea noted that the Executive Board minutes for the month of March 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 April 8, 2015 (The Balance Sheet listed current balances as of April 8, 2015; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of March 2015). Focusing on this year through March, 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 June 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. **Tom Scanlon of Salisbury moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Steve Pilcher of Monkton seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

**IV. Committee Reports:**

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

**New Applications:**

1. Act 250 proposal for a 12 unit multi-family dwelling in Bristol off Plank Road.
2. An Application by Maple Landmarks to expand the size of their operation on Exchange Street in Middlebury;
3. An application from New Haven Solar II to construct a 350kw solar generation facility around the existing 150kw facility on Rte 7 in New Haven behind and south of the State Police Barracks in New Haven.

**Permits:**

1. An administrative amendment to extend the completion date for a previously permitted project on Rte in New Haven between the Mobile Station and the police barracks.

Energy: Jeremy noted the Committee met on March 19, 2015 to host a very well attended meeting on how to create community and /or municipal solar facilities with Town Energy Coordinators.

Local Government: No meeting.

Natural Resources: The Natural Resources Committee will meet later this month to continue its discussion of regionally significant resources.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC met on March 18, 2015. Its primary item of business was to prioritize town highway bridge candidate projects.

Plan Re-write: Thea noted that the committee met immediately prior to tonight's meeting and continued its work on the Future Land Use section of the plan. It should conclude that section at its next meeting.

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

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** None.

VII. **Old Business:**

Vermont Gas Pipeline Update: Thea asked the commission to allow her to move this item of business until last on the agenda to allow us to engage in a full discussion of it. The Commission agreed.

Other: None.

**New Business:**

Report of the Nominating Committee: Thea noted that this is the meeting the Nominating Committee reports its selected slate for the nomination of officers to the Executive Board. She noted that after the nominating committee presents its slate of officers, the commission will also take nominations from the floor.

Andrew Manning, the chair of the nominating committee, presented the slate of officers it nominated for the Executive Board including:

**Thea Gaudette, Chair**  
**Jeremy Grip, Vice Chair**  
**David Hamilton, Treasurer**  
**Ted Davis Secretary**  
**Chico Martin, at large**  
**Nick Causton, at large**  
**Diane Benware, at large.**

Thea thanked Andrew and the remainder of the nominating committee for their report. She opened the floor to nominations of officers from the floor. None were forthcoming.

**Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Peter Grant seconded the motion. All approved by voice vote.**

Thea reminded the Commission that they would be asked to vote on a slate of officers at the Commission's Annual meeting in May. She also reminded the commission that the floor would also be open to nominations from the floor at that time.

Draft Workplan and Budget for FY 2015/2016: Adam distributed a DRAFT workplan and budget for the 2015/2016 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015. He noted that this was a first draft and that he still did not have workplans from either the Agency of Commerce or the Agency of Transportation, so new tasks would be included, but he wanted to give it to the commission and go through it. He would ask the commission to vote on a workplan and budget at the June Meeting. Adam walked the commission through the tasks in the workplan and the corresponding line item in the budget and took questions on specifics of the proposal.

Discussion of Annual Meeting Location and Speaker: Adam noted our speaker for the annual meeting would be Professor Steve Trombulak of Middlebury College. Professor Trombulak will speak briefly about his new book, "The Story of Vermont". The Annual meeting will be held at Tourterelle Restaurant in New Haven on the back porch. Social hour will start at 5:00 followed by our speaker, dinner and an abbreviated business meeting. All commissioners and staff are encouraged to attend and invited to bring a guest.

Nominations for the Bertha Hanson Award: Thea noted that it was also time to nominate a Commissioner for the Bertha Hanson award. She noted that the Bertha award was given annually to a commissioner that consistently contributed to the commission in a thoughtful manner. Anyone desiring to make a nomination should speak to Adam or a member of the Executive Board before the E Board meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Vermont Gas Phase 1, Second Remand: 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. The Supreme Court has remanded that case back to the Public Service Board. The Board has issued an Order and schedule and is taking testimony this spring on whether it should re-open the docket. Adam asked the Commission whether it wanted to participate in the second remand and if so, how?

**Ted Davis** of Middlebury opened the discussion noting that he felt it was proper to open the case for remand given the extent of the price change.

**Peter Grant** asked how much the price increase for the pipeline will affect the cost of gas.

**Adam Lougee** responded that the cost would go up, but that the PSD intended to look at how much of the increase was attributable to VT Gas error and may not allow that portion of the cost to be passed on to ratepayers.

**Melanie Peyser**, a guest from Monkton, noted that she felt all the increase would be passed on to ratepayers because of the guaranteed returns the PSB makes to utilities.

**Chico Martin** noted that the primary focus of this inquiry would be to see if the project still resulted in a net economic benefit to the region even after the cost increase. He noted we did not present an economic analysis in the first phase of this process and we do not have the expertise to do one now.

**Ross Conrad** stated that there have been significant changes since the commission voted on Phase 1 more than two years ago and that we should encourage the PSB to review those changes to determine if the project still makes economic sense. Ross noted that costs of distribution were not included in the previous estimate, that customers were receiving gas at about the same price as a pipeline through the current trucking to a gas island and that the advent of cold climate heat pumps and lower oil prices all combined to make relooking at this project an imperative. Ross also suggested that ACRPC ask the PSB to issue an injunction stopping the construction process until this is decided.

**Karl Neuse** noted that the Public Service Department represents the public and had already done the economic analysis and should be relied on to do it again. He also noted that the Town of Middlebury continues to support the project

**Igor Hughes**, a guest from Monkton, noted that he felt the commission should ask the PSB to reopen the docket and examine the cost increase. He noted the budget for the project had ballooned and that it was too much for Vermont.

**Mel Hawley**, a delegate from Vergennes stated that ACRPC does not do economic analyses, nor should it.

**Steve Pilcher**, an alternate from Monkton, and member of the Monkton Selectboard shared that Monkton was concerned that the cost of creating a distribution system to Monkton, including the gate station, was not included in the Phase 1 cost. He noted that Monkton had asked Vermont Gas to honor its MOU with the town of Monkton and to include the cost of doing so in the application.

**Stan Grzyb** stated that the Commission should go on record asking the PSB to carefully consider the cost benefit of this project and whether the project is still warranted. He noted ACRPC cannot do the cost benefit analysis and believes that VT Gas will honor their MOU with the Commission and Monkton. However, he also believes that a number of alternatives to the pipeline currently exist that did not two years ago, including cold climate heat pumps and compressed gas islands.

**Jim Duclos** noted that the PSB asked whether they should reopen the case and that ACRPC should simply answer that question in the affirmative.

**Mary Anne Sullivan** asked what unique statement could ACRPC contribute.

**Barry Bailey**, a guest, stated she was concerned that the PSD could not be trusted with this process as they had failed to test certain assumptions by the Applicant in the first remand.

She stated that ACRPC should request that the PSB reopen the docket and that it should review all financial documents in the case.

**Ed Payne** asked what ACRPC would testify to if it chose to comment.

**Melanie Peyser** suggested that ACRPC did not need to act now; it could wait and file a brief after it heard all of the evidence.

**Chico Martin moved that ACRPC reiterate its support for its MOU with Vermont Gas. Ed Payne seconded the motion.**

**Holly Noordsy** stated that we should not re-support the MOU until ACRPC has examined how the cost increases impacted the orderly development of the region.

**Chico Martin** noted that the Bristol Selectboard had supported this project and that ACRPC should also.

**Jeremy Grip** noted that two years later a lot has happened in addition to the price increase. Jeremy stated we need to evaluate the change in circumstances.

**Steve Pilcher called the question. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the call, which passed by voice vote.**

Thea brought Chico's motion before the commission as follows and instituted a roll call vote.

**Shall ACRPC reiterate its support for its MOU with Vermont Gas?**

<i>Town</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Addison:</i>					
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne		x		
	Andrew Manning				x
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant			x	
	William Sayre				x
	Chico Martin		x		
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Jim Duclos			x	
	Holly Noordsy			x	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Arabella Holzapfel		x		
	Tim Davis			x	
<i>Goshen:</i>					
<i>Leicester:</i>	Diane Benware			x	
	Ron Fiske		x		

*Lincoln:*

<i>Town</i>	<i>Delegate</i>	<i>Vote</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Karl Neuse		x		
	David Hamilton			x	
	Ted Davis			x	
	Ross Conrad				
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette				
	Wendy Sue Harper				
	Steve Pilcher			x	
<i>New Haven:</i>					
	Susan Smiley			x	
<i>Orwell:</i>					
<i>Panton:</i>	James Dayton			x	
<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip			x	
<i>Salisbury:</i>	Tom Scanlon			x	
	Mary Anne Sullivan				x
<i>Shoreham:</i>	Nick Causton				x
<i>Starksboro:</i>					
<i>Vergennes:</i>	Mel Hawley		x		
<i>Waltham:</i>					
<i>Weybridge:</i>					
<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer			x	
Otter Creek					
Audubon:	Diane Carter			x	
Otter Creek Natural Resources Conservation District	Paul Wagner		x		
<b>The motion failed</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>

**VIII. Adjourn: Chico Martin moved to adjourn. Karl Neuse seconded the motion. The motion passed on a show of hands 14-12. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee