

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, November 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: Jamie Dayton

Bristol:

Cornwall: Holly Noordsy
Stan Grzyb

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Salisbury:

Shoreham:

Ferrisburgh: Tim Davis
Arabella Holzapfel

Starksboro: Richard Warren

Vergennes: Shannon Haggett

Goshen:

Leicester: Diane Benware
Ron Fiske

Waltham:

Lincoln: Steve Revell

Weybridge:

Middlebury: Karl Neuse
David Hamilton

Whiting:

Monkton: Thea Gaudette
Wendy Sue Harper

New Haven: Harvey Smith
Susan Smiley

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:

Kent Wright

Addison County Economic Development Corp:

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: Ted Davis

Treasurer: David Hamilton

At Large: Chico Martin

Diane Benware

Nick Causton

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 October 14, 2015 minutes:** Chico Martin moved approval of the minutes. Steve Revell seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote with Wendy Sue Harper, Stan Grzyb, Steve Revell, Holly Noordsy and Richard Warren abstaining.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Thea noted that the Executive Board minutes for the previous month have been handed out 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 11, 2015 (The Balance Sheet lists current balances as of today; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of October 2015). Regarding the current fiscal year, Adam noted that cash balances are good and that revenues exceeded expenses. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's Report. **Chico Martin moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Steve Revell seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**

Act 250: Adam gave an Act 250/Section 248 report as follows. Adam noted that the Act 250/Section 248 Committee had met on November 5th to review proposals before the Region.

New Applications:

10/20 - Sent our newly approved 45 day notice letter to BDE Vergennes in response to their notice of a 500kw solar array proposed for 94 Comfort Hill in Vergennes. The Act 250 Committee met on 11/5, reviewed this application, and found that it generally meets ACRPC requirements.

10/31 – Sent 45 day notice letter to BDE New Haven Solar in response to their notice of a 500 kW solar array proposed for Rte 17 east of New Haven village. The Act 250 Committee met on 11/5, reviewed this application and has asked Tim to request more detail on proposed thinning of a hedgerow which would currently screen the project.

11/2 – Received a 45 day notice for Addison GLC for a 500kw solar array to be located on Lake St in Addison. ACRPC response letter was sent 11/10.

11/3 - Received an application from GMP for a 4.9 megawatt solar generating plant at 3369 Panton Road in Panton. This array will cover about 40 acres of land and is set back from the road about 900 ft. The Act 250 Committee reviewed the application on its 11/5 meeting and has asked Adam and Tim to conduct a site visit, review the project against the ACRPC requested items, and assist the Town of Panton in their negotiations with GMP.

11/4 – Received a 45 Day notice for Ferrisburgh GLC Solar proposed for Basin Harbor Rd. in Ferrisburgh. ACRPC response letter was sent 11/10.

11/6 – Received a 45 Day notice for Vergennes GLC Solar proposed for Panton Rd. in Panton. ACRPC response letter was sent 11/10.

11/9 – Received a 45 day notice from GMP for re-conducting portions of a power line between Silver Lake and East Middlebury

Approvals or Denials:

None Recorded

Other:

1. There is on-going action on the proposal to construct a 2.2 megawatt array off Field Days Road in New Haven. Extensive testimony in opposition to the project has been submitted including several from expert witnesses.
2. There is on-going action on the proposed addition to the existing solar array next to the State Police barracks in New Haven. Testimony indicates that this and several other approved arrays have not met requirements set by the PSB in relation to interconnectivity. Concern is that ratepayers will pick up the tab for line and transfer station improvements.

Energy: No meeting to report.

Local Government: No meeting to report.

Natural Resources: The Natural Resources Committee met in October on the implementation steps the Plan Re-write Committee had emphasized for Natural Resources. Its next meeting will be in December.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC met in October. The TAC's guest, Jim Ryan from Vermont Local Roads spoke about the impacts that the new water quality regulations would have on how municipalities manage local roads to reduce phosphorus in Lake Champlain.

Plan Re-write: Karl noted that the committee met immediately prior to the meeting and completed the Implementation Section of the Plan. He noted the committee would bring a draft of all sections completed to date before the full commission meeting in December and look to advertise the proposed changes for public hearing in January and February and adoption in March.

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

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Steve Revell recognized all the veterans that had and/or currently serve on the regional planning commission and thanked them for their service to this country.

VII. **Old Business:**

Solar Siting Discussion: Adam reported that staff had distributed both of the documents the commission approved at its last meeting. First, it had sent solar developers notice of the standards it intended to look to developers to meet to site solar within the Region. Second, it sent recommended plan language to each of the chairs of the planning commissions and selectboards in the Region. Adam also noted that he represented the Region and all regional planning commissions on the solar siting committee. He noted he had shared his comments to that committee with the Act 250 Committee.

Vermont Gas Update. Adam noted that this proceeding continues to grind on. Hearings will be held on the second remand and whether it should consider an agreement between Vermont Gas and Dept of Public Service. ACRPC does not intend to present any testimony or cross any witnesses.

TDI Update. Adam noted that ACRPC had joined in the joint findings filed by the applicant and a number of other parties. Adam stated that the joint findings noted that ACRPC and TDI disagreed on the municipalities' ability to tax the lane and had preserved that issue for the future. He expects that a permit will be issued by the end of the year.

Other: None.

New Business:

ACRPC FY2015 Audit: Adam handed out a summary of the audit and noted that full copies are available at the office for anyone wishing to review them. He noted that the audit showed ACRPC had a breakeven year and walked through the highlights with the Commission. He also noted that Vance DeBouter, the auditor had spent a substantial amount of time with the Executive Board at its September meeting. Adam and the Executive Board members offered to answer any questions on the audit. At the end of a brief discussion Steve Revell moved that ACRPC accept and approve the audit as presented. Harvey Smith seconded the motion. All approved by voice vote.

Other: Stan Grzyb noted that a company named Anbaric Energy had planned another big new electric project, but this one would come out of the Lake in Ferrisburgh and feed into the sub-station in New Haven. Stan expressed concern that this may require substantial upgrades to the size of the New Haven substation and/or the transmission lines serving that sub-station. Stan expressed his opinion that this would be a substantial regional issue and asked Adam how ACRPC intended to address this project.

Adam noted that he was aware of the project and had met with the developers to learn about the project in its very early stages. He also noted that while Anbaric is currently discussing the project around the region, especially with the impacted towns, it had not yet filed a 45 day notice of its intent to file for permits. How ACRPC chooses to address the project will be up to ACRPC's commissioners. However, Adam agreed with Stan that if substantial upgrades are required to the transmission system feeding New Haven because of this project, it would have a substantial regional impact.

ACRPC's guest speaker for the evening, Asa Hopkins from the Public Service Department sent in a late note that he had fallen ill and would not be able to make the commission meeting.

Adjourn: Karl Neuse moved to adjourn. Chico Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee