

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, December 9, 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:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Jim Duclos Stan Grzyb	<i>Salisbury:</i>	Tom Scanlon Mary Anne Sullivan
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Tim Davis Arabella Holzapfel Robert Peisch	<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren
<i>Leicester:</i>	Diane Benware Ron Fiske	<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Karl Neuse Ted Davis Ross Conrad	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Ron Crawford
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Wendy Sue Harper	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith Jim Walsh		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

<i>Addison County Farm Bureau:</i>	
<i>Addison County Economic Development Corp:</i>	
<i>Otter Creek Audubon Society:</i>	Ron Payne
<i>Otter Creek Natural Resources:</i>	
<i>Addison County Chamber of Commerce:</i>	

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

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 www.acrpc.org Phone: 802.388.3141 Fax: 802.388.0038

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting:

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

- I. Approval of the November 11, 2015 minutes:** Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved approval of the minutes. Harvey Smith seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote with Tom Scanlon, Jim Pulver, Jim Duclos, Ross Conrad, Nick Causton, Ron Payne and Mary Anne Sullivan 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 December 9, 2015 (The Balance Sheet lists current balances as of today; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of November 2015). Adam noted that cash balances are good and that revenues are about even with expenses, even though we have not sent out November's bills. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's Report. **Tom Scanlon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**

Act 250: Ellen gave an Act 250/Section 248 report as follows. Ellen noted that the Act 250/Section 248 Committee had met on December 3rd to review proposals before the Region. The Committee also discussed inserting language in the letter ACRPC sends out to solar developers putting the developers on notice that ACRPC expects that their applications within the Region will address the capacity of the existing distribution system to support the proposed application.

Ross Conrad moved to amend the letter to put developers on notice that they must address the carrying capacity of the distribution system. Peter Grant seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.

New Applications:

1. Review Shoreham GLC Solar, LLC application to construct a 150kw (received 11/16, no 45 day notice required) group net metered solar array at 876 Shoreham Depot Rd. in the Town of Shoreham. The organization receiving the power from this .75 acre array will be Summit Ventures NE LLC in Warren, VT. The array will be built 40' from Shoreham Depot Rd. and 260 ft of an existing hedgerow will be removed along the road. The applicant states that an existing 3-4' berm will hide the array from the road and that they will plant additional trees on the berm if required which they will maintain to a height of 5'-6'. Other exposures to existing residences are estimated to be minor with the closest house across the road 200' from the project. The property owner is a sheep farmer and intends to continue grazing their sheep under the array. The removal of the existing

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hedgerow will impact this road considerably. The project is further impacted by class II wetlands to the west.

2. Review of Acorn Energy 150 kW net metered solar array (received 11/16, no 45 day notice required) to be located on Watch Point Road in the Town of Shoreham. The array appears to be located on approximately 1 acre of unmown pasture about 900 ft. from Watch Point Road but in an elevation 40-60 ft above that road. The application, as delivered to ACRPC, appears to be incomplete with the site plan showing no setback distances from the road or nearby residences, no inset showing it in relation to the region and also contains no description of expected aesthetic impacts. There appear to be 9 abutting landowners which may raise the aesthetics question beyond average. Located 40-60 ft in elevation above the road, there is a strong possibility that this array may be "skylined" against the horizon. Without a complete application or a site visit it is impossible to tell.
3. Review of application by GMP to reconductor parts of the 46kw line that runs from the Silver Lake generation plant on Lake Dunmore in Salisbury to East Middlebury. A total of approximately 3.5 miles of 46kw line is to be upgraded to a larger diameter line. This line will run on new poles not more than 10ft higher than the existing poles. The line runs between 400 and 800 ft from Lake Dunmore so the impact to the majority of those camps/houses will be unnoticeable.

45 Day Notice reviews:

4. Vergennes GLC Solar proposed for 1069 Panton Rd. in the Town of Panton received on 11/6. The 500kw project will be located on 4.1 acres of a larger (249 acre) parcel. The project will be located south of Panton Road and the land is currently farmed for alfalfa. The array will be located 150ft south of the neighbors to the north and is separated from them by a hedgerow which is currently not expected to be removed. This site is to be located ¼ mile east of and on the opposite side of the road from the 5mw GMP Solar project. (45 day notice sent)
5. Ferrisburgh GLC Solar proposed for Basin Harbor Rd. in the Town of Ferrisburgh received on 11/6. This 500kw project is expected to impact 4 acres of an 18 acre parcel located north of the intersection of Basin Harbor Rd. and Button Bay Rd. The project appears to be located 700-800 ft from the road and no removal of trees is currently shown. Of concern is that the property is split by a mapped stream currently maintained as a drainage ditch for agricultural purposes. The array is proposed to be located away from the stream but once the property is no longer in agricultural use, one would expect maintenance of the stream channel would no longer be allowed. (45 day notice sent).
6. Addison GLC Solar proposed for the east side of Lake St. on a former apple orchard on 3.5 of 10 acres. This 500kw project is set to wrap around existing farm buildings on the east and south side and is proposed to be located approximately 250 ft off Lake St. Class II wetlands have been conspicuously avoided and

include a 50ft buffer. The applicant claims that the existing buildings and the distance from the road will reduce any adverse aesthetic impacts. Not enough detail has been provided to adequately assess the location of nearby hedgerows and trees and evaluate that claim. (45 day notice sent)

Energy: No meeting to report.

Local Government: Thea Reported that the Committee would be going to Ripton in January.

Natural Resources: Wendy Sue Harper reported that the Natural Resources Committee met earlier this evening to discuss its role in the water quality planning initiatives the commission will undertake.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Thea reported that the TAC largely devoted its November meeting to a public hearing with the Vermont Transportation Board.

Plan Re-write: Karl noted that the committee met immediately prior to the meeting, but deferred further comment until New Business when the committee will review the committees work.

V. **Joint Partner's Report:** Harvey reported that at the Economic Development Corporation's annual meeting Middlebury College's new President spoke about the college's connection with economic development in the Region.

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Thea recognized and welcomed Robert Peich, a new Delegate from the Town of Ferrisburgh and Ron Payne, a new delegate representing the Otter Creek Audubon Society, and asked each to introduce himself to the Commission. Bob noted that he was a lifelong Vermonter, currently retired, and living in Ferrisburgh. Ron noted that he was the President of the Audubon Society and had a lifelong interest in birding.

VII. **Old Business:**

Solar Siting Discussion: Adam 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 and that the committee is just beginning to make its recommendations for its report to the legislature due January 15th.

Other: None.

New Business:

Plan Re-Write, Proposed Sections of the Regional Plan: Adam noted the committee had sent drafts of all sections of the Plan completed to date to the full commission in its packet for this

meeting. The Committee is requesting that the Commission approve the draft Sections to go to public hearings in January and February and, assuming the hearings go well, progress to an adoption vote in March. **Tom Scanlon moved that the Commission approve the drafts to proceed to the public hearing. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion.**

Ross Conrad asked about including more information regarding aquifers in the plan. Kevin Behm noted that we did not have good region-wide data on aquifers and therefore the committee chose not to include it. **After further discussion, the Commission voted to send the drafts to public hearing.**

Vote on Dues Assessment for FY 2017 (Begins July 1, 2016): Adam presented the Commission with an accounting of ACRPC's current dues structure and a proposal for a 3 cents per capita increase. Adam noted that he felt that a small dues increase was necessary to keep up with ACRPC's increasing expenses and that the Executive Board had decided that a small incremental increase would be more acceptable to its members than deferring action and then asking for a significant increase in the future. **Ron Crawford moved approval of the 3 cent per capita rate increase. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the increase, which passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

Other: Stan Grzyb brought up the issue of Anbaric Energy's planned Green Line to the New Haven sub-station. 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.

Harvey Smith reported that the Town of New Haven had held a second public hearing on the line last night with about 100 citizens in the room. At that meeting Anbaric had represented that it was requesting a 400 MW line and that it believed that the existing sub-station could accommodate the line and that the transmission lines would not need to be upgraded.

Mary Anne Sullivan thanked Jim Walsh for all the information he had supplied.

Thea Gaudette adjourned ACRPC's business meeting at 8:15. The Commission waited for its guest speaker, Dr. Asa Hopkins to arrive to give his presentation the Vermont Energy Plan and its potential impacts to the Region. At 8:30, Dr. Hopkins arrived and presented and answered questions regarding Vermont's Energy future. The presentation will be available on ACRPC's website at: <http://www.acrpc/resources/presentations>

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee