

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, February 10, 2016

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 Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	Jamie Dayton
<i>Bristol:</i>		<i>Ripton:</i>	
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Stan Grzyb	<i>Salisbury:</i>	Tom Scanlon Mary Anne Sullivan
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Tim Davis	<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren
<i>Leicester:</i>	Diane Benware	<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell David Ludwig	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Ted Davis	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Ron Crawford
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette Steve Pilcher	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer
<i>New Haven:</i>	Jim Walsh		

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:

Ron Payne
Paul Wagner

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

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7:30 p.m. Hearing on Regional Plan Amendments:

Thea opened the hearing at 7:30 p.m. to comments from the public or Commission members.

Stan Grzyb expressed concern about interstate power lines transiting the Region without providing any benefit to Addison County and yet imposing the impacts of power corridors on the aesthetics of the environment. Stan noted that northern New Hampshire had been successful in dramatically reshaping the proposed Northern Pass project. He suggested ACRPC should amend its plan to provide it with the same leverage. Stan proposed two amendments including:

Stan proposed adding language to the list of goals for Scenic value in the Implementation Section of the Plan requiring burial of all transmission lines and prohibiting eminent domain.

The commission spent the remainder of the public hearing discussing Stan's proposals. Many felt that eminent domain powers were enumerated in statute and that ACRPC did not have the authority to change them, but noted that ACRPC had worked with Vermont Gas to emphasize discouraging eminent domain. Many also questioned the technical and economic feasibility of burying all transmission lines, but felt that it constituted an important part of the siting analysis that the plan already supported. At the end of the discussion the Commission reached some clarifying language for the existing sections that it felt it could bring to a vote.

Thea thanked all for their comments, closed the public hearing and opened the full commission meeting at 8:24.

BUSINESS MEETING:

- I. **Vote on Clarifying Language for plan to reflect the hearing. Steve Pilcher moved to amend action #3, under the Scenic Resources sub-section of the Implementation Plan Section, at page 2A-3, to add the phrases "including the technical feasibility of burying transmission lines" and "scenic resources" to the text to clarify that the siting analysis the sub-section required included those considerations. Ron Crawford seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.**

Ron Crawford also moved to add action item #3 to the Energy sub-section of the Implementation Plan at page 2A-5 to "Discourage the use of eminent domain for energy generation or transmission projects." Jamie Dayton seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

The Commission instructed Adam to insert these clarifying statements into the plan for a vote on the amendments at its March meeting.

- II. **Approval of the January 13, 2016 minutes: Steve Revell moved approval of the minutes. Tom Scanlon seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote with Richard Warren abstaining.**
- III. **Executive Board Minutes:** Thea noted that the Executive Board minutes are in the package for your information.

Addison	Bridport	Bristol	Cornwall	Ferrisburgh	Goshen	Leicester
Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
Salisbury	Shoreham	Starksboro	Vergennes	Waltham	Weybridge	Whiting



IV. Treasurer's Report: Adam noted that the Treasurer's report dated as of February 10, 2016 (The Balance Sheet lists current balances as of today; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of January 2016). Adam noted that cash balances are good and that revenues are ahead of expenses, even though we have not sent out January's bills. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's Report. **Tom Scanlon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Steve Revell seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

V. Committee Reports:

Act 250: Ellen gave an Act 250/Section 248 report as follows.

Applications:

1/14; Received an Act 250 application from the Addison County Community Trust for redevelopment of the Gevry Mobile Home Park on Maple Street in Waltham. The committee met on 2/4 and requested additional information about stormwater plans for the project.

1/26; Received a Section 248 application to build a 420kw solar array west of the Vermont Refrigerated Storage plant off 22A in Shoreham. The project had been reviewed by the committee in its 45-day form at its January meeting. Tim has visited the site to review screening plans. At its February meeting the committee confirmed its support of this project.

1/20; Received a 45-day notice for Sun Edison Origination 1 LLC to construct a 500kw solar array at the Northeast corner of Town Line Road and Rte 22A in Addison. A similar sized array already exists at the southwest corner of this intersection. At its February meeting, the committee expressed concern for the aesthetics of the project. Tim has been asked to contact the Town of Addison for their position on this project. A 45-day letter has been sent by ACRPC.

1/20; Received a 45 Day notice for Sun Edison Origination 1 LLC to construct a 500kw solar array at 204 Walker Road in Ferrisburgh. The committee reviewed this project on 2/4 and believes it can be well screened given the location. Tim has been asked to contact the Town of Ferrisburgh for their position on this project. A 45-day letter has been sent by ACRPC.

1/20; Received a 45 Day notice for Sun Edison Origination LLC to construct a 496kw solar array at 3614 Case Street in Middlebury. The committee reviewed this project on 2/4 and believes it is well screened by existing vegetation. A 45-day letter has been sent by ACRPC.

Approvals or Denials:

1. None recorded.

Other:

1. At its meeting on 2/4 the committee confirmed its support of the Vermont Gas proposal to construct a distribution line between the methane gas facility located on the Goodrich Farm

in Salisbury and the Town of Middlebury. This line will bring locally generated gas to local customers.

Energy: No meeting to report, but Jeremy as Chair of the committee did attend the Act 250/248 committee meeting for the discussion on solar and the committee will also be invited to the next Act 250/Section 248 meeting.

Local Government: No meeting.

Natural Resources: No meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met in January. It prioritized paving projects for state highways within the region. Next month it will prioritize all other State transportation infrastructure projects.

Plan Re-write: The committee's recommendations are before the Full Commission for hearing this month.

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

VII. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Adam handed out a sheet of project highlights and focused on Josh's highlight concerning the Better Back Roads Grants. He urged towns with projects that they could implement to apply and asked the delegates to take the information back to their selectboards.

VIII. **Old Business:**

Other: Adam noted that Tim had recently completed drafts of All Hazard Mitigation Plans for the Towns of Monkton, Ferrisburgh and Leicester. He urged the delegates from those towns to pick up copies on the way out, review them and return them to Tim.

IX. **New Business:**

Election of a Nominating Committee: Thea noted that at its February meeting the Executive Board would consider the slate it proposes for a nominating committee. Those desiring to be on the committee should speak with a member of the Executive Board.

Discussion of Annual Meeting and Speaker: Thea stated that ACRPC holds its annual meeting in May. Adam would be delighted to hear from any delegates with a suggestion regarding a location and/or speaker.

Nominations for the Bertha Hanson Award: Thea also asked each Commissioner to think about who they might nominate for this year's Bertha award.

Other: None.

X. Adjourn: Tom Scanlon moved to adjourn. Ted Davis seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee