

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

Addison:

Bridport: Edward Payne
Andrew Manning

Orwell:

Panton: Jamie Dayton

Bristol: Garland Chico Martin

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Cornwall: Holly Noordsy
Stan Grzyb

Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Barrie Bailey

Ferrisburgh: Tim Davis
Arabella Holzapfel

Shoreham:

Goshen: Jim Pulver

Starksboro: Richard Warren

Leicester: Diane Benware
Ron Fiske

Vergennes: Shannon Haggett

Lincoln: Steve Revell
David Ludwig

Waltham:

Weybridge: Ron Crawford

Middlebury: Karl Neuse
Ted Davis
Ross Conrad

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

Monkton: Thea Gaudette
Steve Pilcher

New Haven: Harvey Smith
Jim Walsh
Susan Smiley

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. Public Presentation, Joseph Rossignoli, National Grid/Anbaric Greenline:

Adam introduced the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's (ACRPC) guest for this evening, Mr. Joseph Rossignoli, Vice President of U.S. Business Development at National Grid. Mr. Rossignoli introduced the rest of his team, Kyle Martel, Galen Guerrero Murphy and Tim Dandean. Mr. Rossignoli joined ACRPC to describe and discuss National Grid's proposed plans to build an energy transmission project they are calling the Vermont Greenline, to transport energy from northern New York, across Lake Champlain into the VELCO sub-station in New Haven. The project involves a DC cable capable of carrying up to 400 MW of power that will be buried on the bottom of Lake Champlain, and buried in local and state road rights of way through Ferrisburgh, Waltham and New Haven, a significant converter building and yard to convert the energy from DC to AC before it feeds into the VELCO substation and upgrades to the VELCO substation to accommodate the additional power.

A copy of Mr. Rossignoli's PowerPoint presentation is attached to ACRPC's website at: <http://acrpc.org/>

During Mr. Rossignoli's presentation, a number of Commissioners and members of the audience asked questions. Those are recorded as follows:

Stan Grzyb: How does this project benefit the State of Vermont?

Joe Rossignoli: The influx of new supply into the New England grid is projected to lower overall cost of power in New England. Additionally, National Grid/Anbaric is open to selling directly to Vermont utilities at competitive prices.

Ross Conrad asked about the development value of the infrastructure.

Joe Rossignoli responded that lower energy costs create considerable economic value.

Stan Grzyb asked what the maximum size of the line would be.

Joe Rossignoli responded that it would be 400MW. He noted that this was a major concession that the project had made to the town of New Haven in their negotiations. He would have preferred 800 MW, but had agreed that it would not exceed 400. He also noted that the converter station would be rated for 400 MW.

Stan Grzyb asked what upgrades would be required from the VELCO sub-station.

Joe Rossignoli stated that the sub-station would require upgrades within the substation, but would not require line upgrades.

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



Mr. Rossignoli discussed the converter station in New Haven in some depth. He showed a rendering of the building, designed like a barn and showing the building partially visible from Route 7. He noted that NG/Anbaric does not currently control the line of trees screening a significant portion of the building, but had an option to purchase the property. He also noted that the landscaping plan was not currently complete, but due to the scale of the building he expected to plant a variety of significantly sized trees on the property.

Regarding sound, Mr. Rossignoli stated that NG/Anbaric had committed to the World Health Organization standard of 40 Decibels maximum at any time at the nearest house, about 750 feet away.

Mr. Rossignoli also stated that the converter building would use “dark sky standards” for its lighting.

Holly Noordsy asked about the operating life of the plant, maintenance requirements and a decommissioning plan.

Joe Rossignoli responded that the converter station was presumed to have a 40 year operating life. It would be maintained on a yearly basis. The line requires minimal to no maintenance. The decommission plan is not available yet.

Susan Smiley asked about possibilities for cogeneration at the converter station.

Joe Rossignoli responded it was a good question, but that as of right now they had not considered the option and he did not know what might be possible.

Barrie Bailey asked whether the project will require improvements to the VELCO transmission line.

Joe Rossignoli responded it would not.

Barrie Bailey asked whether any of the renewable energy credits would benefit Vermont?

Joe Rossignoli responded that they would not, but that Vermont would benefit from lower energy costs as a result of the project.

Mr. Rossignoli stated that the project would involve significant construction jobs, but would directly employ very few people over the longterm.

Finally, Mr. Rossignoli gave his contact information as (401) 316- 1860.

Thea thanked all for their comments, closed the public presentation and opened the full commission meeting at 8:30 after a short intermission.

BUSINESS MEETING: Thea opened the business meeting by having Adam take the Roll of Commissioners present. She explained that since ACRPC’s bylaws require votes on the Regional Plan to pass by a super-majority of 60%, she wanted to make sure we accurately recorded all of the Commissioners present and their voting status.

- I. **Approval of the February 10, 2016 minutes:** Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved approval of the minutes. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote with Holly Noordsy, Ross Conrad, Barrie Bailey and Arabella Holzafel abstaining.
- II. **Executive Board Minutes:** Thea noted that the Executive Board minutes are in the package for your information.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** Adam noted that the Treasurer's report dated as of February 24, 2016 (The Balance Sheet lists current balances as February 24; 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. 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. She noted that the Energy and Act 250/Section 248 committees met jointly on March 3rd and discussed the "Fast Track" process for solar development with GMP. The Act 250/Section 248 Committee also discussed two solar projects of 500kW each, one in Ferrisburgh on the Pierce Property by Route 7 and the other in Whiting on the Crawford property. The Act 250/Section 248 Committee felt that both projects were well-sited, conformed with the criteria ACRPC had specified in its letter to solar developers and agreed ACRPC did not need to participate. The Third project involved the extension of the runway at the Middlebury airport. The Act 250/Section 248 Committee noted that both the Town Plan and ACRPC's plan specifically supported the project. Ross Conrad raised the issue of stormwater and how it might impact the aquifer serving Middlebury's drinking water system. The Committee requested that Staff review the stormwater sections of the application and discuss the issue with the Town of Middlebury and report back at the next meeting. The next meeting of both committees will be on April 7th at 4:30. The committees will review ACRPC's guidance to towns regarding solar siting in light of the Bennington decision.

Energy: Jeremy Grip noted that next month's meeting will also be a joint meeting between the Act 250/Section 248 and Energy committees.

Local Government: No meeting.

Natural Resources: **Ed Payne reported that the Natural Resources Committee reviewed the Chelsea solar decision from the Town of Bennington.** He also noted the committee discussed water quality and the forestry bill in the legislature.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met in February. It prioritized all State transportation infrastructure projects except for the paving projects done at the previous meeting.

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

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

VI. **Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Adam 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.

VII. **Old Business:**

Other: None.

New Business:

Election of a Nominating Committee: Thea noted that she will be ending her time with the Commission at the end of this fiscal year in June and would not be seeking another term as chair.

Jeremy Grip thanked Thea for her work to date and stated the commission would miss her. Jeremy then noted that the executive Board traditionally put one of its outgoing members on the nominating committee and that this year the Executive Board proposes a nominating committee of James Dayton, Tom Scanlon and Thea Gaudette. **Karl Neuse moved the Commission appoint the Nominating committee as recommended by the Executive Board, which is composed of Thea Gaudette, Jamie Dayton and Tom Scanlon. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

Vote to amend the following sections of the regional plan: Section I, Introduction; Section II, Substantial Regional Impact; Section IIA (new) Implementation; and Section VIII, Future Land Use of the Addison County Regional Plan and to readopt the entire Addison County Regional Plan:

Karl Neuse introduced the work of the Plan Rewrite Committee. He noted that it had been before the commission informally in December and that the Commission had held public hearings concerning the proposed changes at its January and February meetings. **Karl moved that by separate vote the Commission:**

1. **Vote to amend Section I, Introduction; Section II, Substantial Regional Impact; Section IIA (new) Implementation; and Section VIII, Future Land Use of the Addison County Regional Plan; and**
2. **Vote to readopt the entire Addison County Regional Plan.**

Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion. Thea instructed Adam to take the vote by Roll Call. Adam recorded the vote of each of the delegates present and alternates authorized to vote as follows:

Vote to amend Section I, Introduction; Section II, Substantial Regional Impact; Section IIA (new) Implementation; and Section VIII, Future Land Use of the Addison County Regional Plan;

<i><u>Town</u></i>	<i><u>Delegate/Alternate</u></i>	<i><u>Vote</u></i>	<i><u>Town</u></i>	<i><u>Delegate/Alternate</u></i>	<i><u>Vote</u></i>
<i>Addison:</i>			<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith	Y
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne	Y		Jim Walsh	Y
	Andrew Manning	Y		Susan Smiley	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Garland Chico Martin	Y	<i>Orwell:</i>		
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Holly Noordsy	Y	<i>Panton:</i>	Jamie Dayton	Y
	Stan Grzyb	Y	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip	Y
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Tim Davis	Y	<i>Salisbury:</i>	Tom Scanlon	Y
	Arabella Holzapfel	Y		Barrie Bailey	Y
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	Y	<i>Shoreham:</i>		
<i>Leicester:</i>	Diane Benware	Y	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren	Y
	Ron Fiske	Y	<i>Vergennes:</i>	Shannon Haggett	Y
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	Y	<i>Waltham:</i>		
	David Ludwig	Y	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Ron Crawford	Y
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Karl Neuse	Y	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer	Y
	Ted Davis	Y			
	Ross Conrad	Y			
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette	Y			
	Steve Pilcher	Y			

Vote to amend passes 27 – 0.

Vote to readopt the entire Addison County Regional Plan.

<u>Town</u>	<u>Delegate/Alternate</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>Delegate/Alternate</u>	<u>Vote</u>
<i>Addison:</i>			<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith	Y
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne	Y		Jim Walsh	Y
	Andrew Manning	Y		Susan Smiley	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Garland Chico Martin	Y	<i>Orwell:</i>		
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Holly Noordsy	Y	<i>Panton:</i>	Jamie Dayton	Y
	Stan Grzyb	Y	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip	Y
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Tim Davis	Y	<i>Salisbury:</i>	Tom Scanlon	Y
	Arabella Holzafel	Y		Barrie Bailey	Y
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	Y	<i>Shoreham:</i>		
<i>Leicester:</i>	Diane Benware	Y	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren	Y
	Ron Fiske	Y	<i>Vergennes:</i>	Shannon Haggett	Y
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	Y	<i>Waltham:</i>		
	David Ludwig	Y	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Ron Crawford	Y
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Karl Neuse	Y	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer	Y
	Ted Davis	Y			
	Ross Conrad	Y			
<i>Monkton:</i>	Thea Gaudette	Y			
	Steve Pilcher	Y			

Vote to re-adopt passes 27-0.

Discussion of Annual Meeting and Speaker: Adam polled the room regarding a venue for the annual meeting. The Commission expressed its desire to go to Mary’s on Baldwin Creek this year. Adam also solicited suggestions for speakers. David Hamilton, Ellen Kurrelmeyer and Tom Scanlon suggested speakers they felt would be appropriate for the event. Adam noted that he would follow-up on the suggestions and announce the speaker at the next meeting.

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.

VIII. Adjourn: Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved to adjourn. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion. The Commission unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee