

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, July 13, 2016

ACRPC held its monthly meeting at its office on Seminary Street in Middlebury with the Chair, Jeremy Grip of Ripton, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

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| <i>Addison:</i> | | <i>Orwell:</i> | Stephanie Corey |
| <i>Bridport:</i> | Edward Payne Andrew Manning | <i>Panton:</i> | |
| <i>Bristol:</i> | | <i>Ripton:</i> | Jeremy Grip |
| <i>Cornwall:</i> | | <i>Salisbury:</i> | Tom Scanlon Mary Ann Sullivan |
| <i>Ferrisburgh:</i> | | <i>Shoreham:</i> | |
| <i>Goshen:</i> | | <i>Starksboro:</i> | Richard Warren Marjorie Dickstein |
| <i>Leicester:</i> | | <i>Vergennes:</i> | Shannon Haggett Cheryl Brinkman |
| <i>Lincoln:</i> | Steve Revell David Ludwig | <i>Waltham:</i> | |
| <i>Middlebury:</i> | Karl Neuse Ross Conrad | <i>Weybridge:</i> | |
| <i>Monkton:</i> | Wendy Sue Harper | <i>Whiting:</i> | Ellen Kurrelmeyer |
| <i>New Haven:</i> | Harvey Smith | | |

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

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| <i>Addison County Farm Bureau:</i> | Kent Wright |
| <i>Addison County Economic Development Corp:</i> | Harvey Smith |
| <i>Otter Creek Audubon Society:</i> | Ron Payne |
| <i>Otter Creek Natural Resources:</i> | Paul Wagner |
| <i>Addison County Chamber of Commerce:</i> | |

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Jeremy Grip
Vice-Chair: Diane Benware
Secretary: Ted Davis
Treasurer: David Hamilton
At Large: Nick Causton
Steve Revell
Tim Davis

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 PUBLIC PROGRAM: Jeremy Grip, the Chair, called the monthly Meeting to order at 7:33 to address the Commission's agenda.

Jeremy welcomed Ethan Swift and Marlee Rupe from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, and ACRPC's Senior Staff Planner., Claire Tebbs, to the Commission. Marlee and Ethan came to discuss water quality and the Lake Champlain TMDL. Claire will present a stormwater project ACRPC did with the Town of Middlebury that will help to address some of the issues Marlee and Ethan discuss.

Marlee started the conversation by discussing the Draft Clean Water Budget for State FY 2018. Marlee noted that the State is proposing to level fund the budget at \$5,000,000. She noted that the Agency is taking public comment on this budget proposal until July 30, 2016.

Marlee distributed a copy of the draft Vermont Clean Water Fund SFY 18 Distribution Priorities. She then walked the commission through the budget distribution priorities. She noted that the budget is split between the Agencies of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Commerce and Transportation and will cover all things water quality. This new funding will go into existing programs and supplement existing grant funds.

Several commissioners noted that on a statewide basis, the level of funding falls well short of the estimated costs for cleanup of the Lake. Marlee acknowledged this concern, but noted that \$5,000,000 has also been allocated for the past two years and that the cleanup of the Lake would take a significant amount of time.

Ethan Swift spoke next. Ethan presented information explaining the recent changes to the Vermont Water Quality Standards and handed out a Draft Fact Sheet and a pamphlet entitled, "Regulatory implications of Class A(1) Relative to Class B waters, both of which are available on the Agency's website. Ethan noted that the biggest changes addressed adding a new, higher level of protection, B-1 for certain rivers that are in excellent condition, but located below 2,500 feet and therefore not Class A1.

Next, Claire presented the stormwater, disbursed green infrastructure plan, that ACRPC, the Town of Middlebury and Watershed Associates had done to address some stormwater issues in the watershed surrounding Washington Street in the Town of Middlebury. Claire noted that the project looked at creating a number of small raingardens, catch basins and other amenities to slow the stormwater down before it reached its final endpoint in Otter Creek, allowing sediment and nutrients to drop out before it hit the Creek. Claire also spoke with Marlee and Ethan about how the program might be funded by the clean water funds.

Jeremy closed the presentations at just before 9:00 and thanked each of the presenters for their time. After a short intermission, Jeremy reopened the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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



BUSINESS MEETING:

- I. Approval of the June 6, 2016 minutes:** Tom Scanlon moved approval of the minutes as amended. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion. The minutes, as amended, passed by voice vote with Mary Anne Sullivan and David Ludwig abstaining.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Jeremy noted that the Executive Board minutes are in the package for your information and that anyone with questions could speak with a member of the Executive Board or Adam about them.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam noted that the Treasurer's report dated as of July 13, 2016 (The Balance Sheet lists current balances as July 13th; the monthly budget reflects activity through the end of June 2016). Adam noted that cash balances are good, but that revenues are behind expenses. However, he also noted we have not billed revenues for the month of June. Because June is the end of the quarter Adam expects higher receivables to offset the current deficit. Accordingly, he believes we will end the year in decent shape and will focus on getting the bills out over the next month to achieve that goal. Adam offered to take any questions on the Treasurer's Report. **Karl Neuse moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**

Act 250:

Applications:

On June 28th Meadow Glen Solar LLC submitted an application for a 500kw solar installation to be located off Meadow Glen Drive in Middlebury. This project is located east of Creek Road in Middlebury on lands owned by Middle Road Ventures LLC. There appears to already be one solar installation located near or on the same property. The project will be most visible from Creek Road and 3 Mile Bridge Road and plantings are proposed which are unlikely to screen that view. ACRPC has heard nothing from the Town of Middlebury either in support of or opposed to this project.

45 Day notices:

On June 20th LK Holdings LLC submitted a new 45 Day notice for its 500kw net metered solar facility off Sawyer Needham and Whiting Roads in the Town of Whiting. This is a second filing of this notice based on changes to the original proposal which was modified to take into account comments received from the original proposal. The Town of Whiting has been quite involved since the original 45-day notice. This proposal attempts to reduce the local opposition to the project. Ellen will hopefully be able to give us her read on the current proposal.

Other:

1. David & Charlene Collins have been issued an Act 250 Land Use Permit to construct an ancillary structure for the purpose of housing a rug fabrication business off Rte. #7 in Ferrisburgh.

2. A request to amend CPG #NM-1516 to allow removal of 2 wind turbines and reinstall one in a different location has been filed in Cornwall. Neighbors have objected to the new location. The Town has taken no action as yet but are watching the proceedings closely.
3. The Panton GMP solar array proposed for north of the Panton Road east of the village has been awarded a CPG. The Town previously had come to agreement with GMP for a mutually beneficial MOU which should reduce overall energy needs within the Town.
4. The necessity to expand the Middlebury Airport has come into question as the expansion apparently is not a safety requirement of the FAA.
5. Proposed CPG language has been created for a 2.2 Solar array in New Haven off Field Days Rd. Intervenors are objecting to several of the findings and recommendations.
6. The VT Green Line-Anbaric has submitted their 45 Day Notice to construct a DC power line across Lake Champlain from New York to Kingsland Bay and eventually to New Haven. New Haven does not object to the project based on some conditions. The office has received information/concerns that the line may not be buried deep enough under Kingsland Bay. Concerns focus on the recreational use of the bay as a mooring spot for boats. With well over 100 boats anchored in the bay on busy weekends boaters are concerned with the 4' proposed depth, anchors could cause damage. A depth of 8' is being proposed instead.
7. Members intend to delve into the commission's recommendations to towns about solar siting once requirements are more clear from the PSD.

Energy: Jeremy Grip noted that the Energy Committee continues to meet jointly with the Act 250/Section 248 committee.

Local Government: No meeting.

Natural Resources: Wendy Sue Harper reported that the committee will meet again just before the September full commission meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: reported that the TAC meeting focused on high accident locations within the region and also included a discussion of whether the TAC should amend their bylaws to allow non-municipal members, like the newly formed bike/ped committee. The TAC did not take any action. Adam has asked Josh to make sure the Commission has a chance to comment on any changes before they happen.

Plan Re-write: No Meeting since we passed the new Plan in March.

V. **Joint Partner's Report:** No report.

VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:

Adam discussed the Energy Planning process. He noted that he had attended a kickoff meeting yesterday for the contract to create a Regional Energy Plan pursuant to this year's legislation, Act 260. He noted he would be working with the Energy and other committees to get that done.

VII. Old Business:

Committee Selections: Adam distributed a proposed Committee list for this fiscal year and asked each commission member to make their selection and return it to him by August 1st so the Executive board will have it for their August meeting to make appointments for the September Full Commission meeting. Adam noted that the TAC was working on the Transportation Section of the Plan and that the Energy Committee would be working on the Energy Section of the Plan this year. He noted that because of this activity, he was recommending not reconstituting the Plan Rewrite committee.

Other: Richard Warren noted that last month the Commission had asked Adam to draft a Resolution Thanking Thea. Adam noted he would have it for next meeting.

VIII. New Business:

ACRPC Meeting Calendar: Adam distributed the full commission meeting calendar and agreed to put all Committee meetings with fixed dates on the website.

Other: None.

IV. Adjourn:

There being no further business; **Tom Scanlon moved adjournment. Shannon Haggett seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 9:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee
Executive Director