

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2017

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

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Edward Payne
Andrew Manning

Bristol: Peter Grant

Cornwall: Stan Grzyb

Ferrisburgh: Tim Davis
Arabella Holzafel

Goshen: Jim Pulver

Leicester: Diane Benware

Lincoln:

Middlebury: Ted Davis
Karl Neuse

Monkton: Stephen Pilcher
Wendy Sue Harper

New Haven: Harvey Smith
Susan Smiley

Orwell:

Panton:

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Barrie Bailey

Shoreham: Linda Oaks

Starksboro: Marjorie Dickstein

Vergennes: Mel Hawley
Shannon Haggett

Waltham:

Weybridge: Ron Crawford

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

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:

Kent Wright

Ron Payne

Paul Wagner

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

7:00 p.m. BUSINESS MEETING: Jeremy Grip opened the meeting by introducing the first order of business.

I. Approval of Minutes. A motion by Ellen Kurrelmeyer to accept the February, 2017 minutes, seconded by Ron Crawford was approved by voice vote. Karl Neuse and Wendy Sue Harper abstained.

II. Executive Board Minutes: Jeremy noted that the Executive Board minutes from February are available in your packet. If anyone has any questions regarding the minutes, please speak with a member of the Board or with Adam.

III. Treasurers Report: Adam presented the Treasurer's Report **A motion by Ron Crawford to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Steve Pilcher was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

IV. Committee Reports:

ACT250/248 Committee: Ellen provided a report of the Committee's activities and applications filed and approved since the last meeting.

She noted the District 9 Environmental Commission denied the application of the Dollar Store in Shoreham based on the 9L criteria. She also noted that GMP had received a permit to move some electric distribution lines in Bristol and Lincoln.

She also noted that the ACORN Energy Coop had requested the Commission support for a net metering project it has proposed in Shoreham. The Shoreham PC and Selectboard have supported the project. It needs RPC support to qualify as a "preferred site" under the new net metering rules. The Committee recommended Regional Support for the ACoRN site and presented the Commission with a letter of support. **Ted Davis moved that ACRPC support the ACoRN site at 125 Watch Point Road. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion. Discussion occurred around two conditions in the letter as proposed.** Mel Hawley noted the conditions should track directly to the Regional Plan. Ted Davis took the discussion as a friendly amendment to his motion and suggested that staff re-write the letter to tie it to specific elements of the regional plan. Ellen, as seconder of the motion concurred. **The motion, supporting a revised letter passed by voice vote with Wendy Sue Harper abstaining.**

Lastly, Ellen presented the full Commission with a draft letter opposing the Greenline application as currently proposed, because it failed to meet the Criteria contained in Goal D, subsection b, of the Utilities, Facilities and Energy Section of the Regional Plan. See circulated a copy of the draft letter.

Arabella Holzapfel of Ferrisburgh spoke up and noted that Ferrisburgh supports the Greenline, believes the Greenline will benefit Ferrisburgh and therefore the Region and that Ferrisburgh wants ACRPC to support the project.

Ted Davis asked whether the project created undue impacts to the Region?

Jeremy Grip responded that impacts to the Kingsland Bay mooring area, potential changes to the VELCO Transmission corridor north to Willison, and tax implications to towns bordering Lake Champlain could be considered undue impacts.

Ron Crawford suggested that the Commission edit the tone of the proposed letter to “voice its concerns.” Ron also questioned the “undue adverse” impact of this power line, especially since it is nearly entirely underground.

Steve Pilcher expressed the opinion that the power or RECs in the Greenline could be used to benefit Vermont and the Addison Region. Steve suggested that “Re-conductoring” is not that intrusive and that upgrade of the New Haven Willison line would strengthen the electric grid around the Burlington area.

Harvey Smith noted the Town of New Haven supported the Greenline and felt that it would receive significant benefits from the project.

Adam Lougee spoke to the process. He noted that the case before the Board is in discovery. He suggested that ACRPC delay voting on any position at this time, ask good questions during discovery and take a position at its April meeting in time to submit testimony by the May 5th deadline.

The Commission generally supported this suggestion.

Steve Pilcher suggested that we should use discovery to understand the extent and cost of the reconductoring. He also wanted to understand Greenline’s testimony that the improvements to the VELCO corridor were unnecessary.

Tim Davis noted that Ferrisburgh supports the Greenline application. He believes they will resolve the issue of the moorings in Kingsland bay and will provide a lot of local benefit.

Stan Grzyb wanted to know how much of the power, or RECs associated with it would be sold locally and within the State of Vermont.

Susan Smiley noted that Citizen's Energy, an investor in the program committed that they would re-invest some of the project proceeds into local weatherization efforts.

Jeremy Grip also supported understanding what portion of the Energy Could be sold in the Addison Region.

Mel Hawley focused specifically on Goal D and the objectives, a and b purporting to support Goal D. Mel noted that Goal D itself is fine, but questioned whether objectives a and b actually implemented Goal D.

Would REC's be available to retire locally to allow the project to comply with the Plan?

Ted Davis noted that if the project does not have undue adverse impacts under Goal D, then objectives a and b should not apply.

Jeremy thanked the Commission, closed the discussion, asked Adam to draft information requests based upon the concern expressed by the commissioners in the discussion and noted that we would put this item on the agenda at the April meeting for a vote. We should have answers to our information requests to inform that meeting.

Energy Committee: Jeremy reported that the Energy Committee met on February 28th at 6:00 p.m. just after the Act 250/248 meeting. The Committee reviewed the revised proposed Energy projections from VEIC, the maps as completed by the Natural Resources Committee, and a letter to send to municipalities requesting that they provide a letter if they would like to be one of the three towns receiving regional assistance with energy planning. The Energy Committee will review the letters of request at its April 4th meeting and choose the 3 towns.

Natural Resources: The Committee did not meet this month.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC meeting in February was hindered by the significant snowstorm that day. It did not have a quorum, but those present did look at regional priorities, which they will take up again at its next meeting. in January and looked at regional priorities for state roadway and bridge infrastructure.

Local Government Committee: The Local Government Committee has an item on the agenda for consideration later. In other business, Ted noted the committee has received a request from the Town of New Haven for regional review of its plan.

V. Joint Partners Report: None this month.

VI. Delegate Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights: Adam highlighted a couple of energy related projects. First, the energy committee sent out a letter to all towns last week asking them to formally state that they would like to be one of the 3 towns ACRPC works with on Town Energy Planning and why they would be the best choice for that work. The Letter is due back by March 31st and the Energy Committee will pick the 3 towns at its April 4th meeting.

Second, the Vermont Council for Rural Development sent out a notice that it is looking for applications from towns to be considered in their new **Vermont Climate Economy Model Communities Program**. **The Program** will help communities build and implement plans that model state-of-the-art rural development in an age of climate change. The ultimate goal is to create “climate smart” communities throughout Vermont and brand them, leveraging rapid change by implementing comprehensive efficiencies efforts, transportation system improvements, energy generation, entrepreneurship and business incubation to spur economic progress. The Council will work with two towns over the next year and will be looking to implement programs similar to that which GMP is undertaking with the Town of Panton highlighting efficiency. Applications for that program are due March 22nd.

VII. Old Business.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment: Adam noted that he included a new proposed Bylaw in the packet for the meeting, based upon some of the suggestions Mel Hawley had made at the previous meeting. After discussion, **Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved to approve the amendments as proposed. Tom Scanlon seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote, with Barrie Bailey abstaining.**

Other: None.

VIII. New Business

Election of a Nominating Committee: Adam reminded the Commission that one of the changes we had made in the bylaws was to ask for volunteers to the nominating committee in the February meeting. Stephen Pilcher and Arabella Holzapfel volunteered at that time. The Executive Board presented the following slate for the Nominating Committee at the March meeting: Karl Neuse, Stephen Pilcher and Arabella Holzapfel. Jeremy opened the floor to further nominations. None were offered. **Wendy Sue Harper moved to approve the Nominating Committee as offered by the Executive Board. Tim Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.**

Vote regarding the confirmation of the Town of Addison’s Planning Process and Approval of the Addison Town Plan: Ted Davis chair of the Local Government Committee noted that the

Committee and staff had reviewed the Addison Plan to determine if it complied with the Statutory requirements and found that it had. It conducted a joint public hearing with the Town of Addison Planning Commission to discuss its planning process and to solicit input regarding the Addison Town Plan. The Committee voted to confirm the planning process and regionally approve the Addison Town Plan. **Andrew Manning moved confirmation and approval as recommended by the committee. Ted Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Nominations for the Bertha Hanson Award: Jeremy reminded people to think about who they would like to nominate and inform the Executive Board before its April meeting.

Other: Tom Scanlon noted that all Selectboard members needed to receive Incident Command System training before they sign on to Town Emergency Plans. Tim is offering the training they need this Saturday here at ACRPC from 9:00- 12:00

IX. Member Concerns. None.

On a motion to adjourn by Peter Grant, seconded by Steve Pilcher and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Adam Lougee