

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 2017

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

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne Andrew Manning	<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Stan Grzyb	<i>Salisbury:</i>	Tom Scanlon Barrie Bailey
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Tim Davis Arabella Holzafel	<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Rich Warren
<i>Leicester:</i>	Tom Drew	<i>Vergennes:</i>	Cheryl Brinkman Shannon Haggett
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell		
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Ted Davis Karl Neuse Ross Conrad	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Stephen Pilcher Wendy Sue Harper	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Ron Crawford
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith Jim Walsh Susan Smiley	<i>Whiting:</i>	Ellen Kurrelmeyer

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

<i>Addison County Farm Bureau:</i>	Kent Wright
<i>Addison County Economic Development Corp:</i>	
<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

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.

II. Executive Board Minutes: Jeremy noted that the Executive Board minutes from March 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. He noted that revenues were virtually equal with expenses through March. However, Adam also noted that since we prebilled funding for the 4th quarter from the Agency of Commerce and from dues, the revenues should exceed expenses by a considerable sum. However, Adam also noted that we had not billed for most of the month of March's revenues or for several revenues billed quarterly. He believes revenues should pull well ahead with these billings. Nevertheless, Adam recognizes that the budget will be close again this year and he needs to watch revenue for the last quarter of the year. **A motion by Tom Scanlon 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.

Lastly, Ellen presented the full Commission with a draft letter from the Committee 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. She circulated a copy of the draft letter. The Commission left the matter to address it in another portion of the agenda.

Energy Committee: Jeremy reported that the Energy Committee met on April 4th at 6:00 p.m. just after the Act 250/248 meeting. The Committee reviewed the revised proposed Energy projections from VEIC, adopted the maps as completed by the Natural Resources Committee, and voted on the 3 pilot towns that ACRPC would support with regional assistance with energy planning. After considerable discussion, the Energy Committee recommends that ACRPC support the work of the Towns of Weybridge, Ripton and Leicester. **Ron Crawford moved to accept the committee's recommendation. Peter Grant seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.** Adam agreed he would notify the applicants of the Commission's decision.

Jeremy also noted that the Energy Committee made the policy decision that the Region should take existing generation into account when allocating future generation targets to towns. If ACRPC can distinguish projects where the RECs are kept in state, then only those projects will count toward the total. If ACRPC cannot distinguish who owns the RECs, it shall count all generation toward the total projection.

Lastly, Jeremy noted that on a very gross scale, the energy availability maps for the region showed that the region had enough potential siting area to satisfy the State's needs for solar energy, and therefore more than enough potential area for the Region's contribution.

Natural Resources: The Committee did not meet this month.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC meeting in March focused primarily on the prioritization of town bridges.

Local Government Committee: The Local Government Committee will travel to New Haven on May 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. to hold a joint hearing on the New Haven Town Plan with the New Haven Planning Commission.

V. Joint Partners Report: Tom Scanlon noted that the RPC and RDC worked together this afternoon to present a Seminar on How Cyber-attacks work.

VI. Delegate Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights: Jeremy welcomed Tom Drew of Leicester to the meeting and asked him to say a few words about himself. Tom noted he was pleased to be here. He is a retired officer from the National Guard looking forward to serving the Town of Leicester.

Adam directed the Commission to the newsletter and highlighted that Claire and the City of Vergennes received a planning grant award for their work on the City Master Plan completed last year.

VII. Old Business.

Announcement Annual Meeting Location and Speaker: Jeremy announced that ACRPC's Annual Meeting, next month, May 10, 2017 will be held at the Basin Harbor Club in their newly renovated club room, just off of the main lobby. He noted that David Brynn, the Executive Director of Vermont Family Forests and former Addison County Forester will speak about the future of forestry.

Nominations for the Bertha Hanson Award: Jeremy also announced that anyone wanting to nominate one of their peers for the Bertha Hanson Award should speak with Adam or a member of the Executive Board PRIOR to the Executive Board's next meeting.

Discussion concerning and vote regarding ACRPC's position regarding the Vermont Greenline:

The Commission first took up the issue the committee raised regarding supporting the Friends of Kingsland Bay.

Ted Davis moved that ACRPC authorize the Executive Director to work with the Friends of Kingsland Bay to persuade Green Line to move the transmission cable from Kingsland Bay. Ellen Kurrelmeyer seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

The Commission then spent a considerable amount of time discussing the merits of the Green Line in light of the Act 250/Section 248 Committee's report that the Green Line could not satisfy Goal D, Objective B of the Energy Section of the Regional Plan.

After about an hour of discussion, **Steve Pilcher moved to call the question. Cheryl Brinkman seconded the motion, which all approved.**

**The Commission immediately voted on the Motion:
Shall the Commission support the findings of the Act 250/Section 248 Committee that the Greenline cannot satisfy Goal D, objective b of the Energy Section of the Addison County Regional Plan?**

On a Roll Call Vote, the Motion failed: 8Y, 17 N, 2 abstentions.

Ron Crawford offered a second motion: "Shall ACRPC authorize the Executive Director and Executive Board to negotiate with the Greenline to make modifications to the project to facilitate its compliance with Goal D, objective b of the Energy Section of the Addison County Regional Plan." Peter Grant seconded the motion. This motion passed by a voice vote.

Jeremy thanked the commission for a thoughtful discussion.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business

Report of the Nominating Committee/Nominations from the floor: Adam reminded the Commission that it elected Karl Neuse, Stephen Pilcher and Arabella Holzapfel as members of the nominating Committee and asked Karl for the report of the Committee. Karl reported that the Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of officers and Executive Board members:

Jeremy Grip, Chair
Diane Benware, Vice Chair
Nick Causton, Secretary
Ted Davis, Treasurer
Steve Revell, at large
Tim Davis, at large
David Hamilton, at large

Jeremy opened the floor to further nominations. None were offered. Jeremy thanked the nominating committee for their work, noted that we would vote on officers at the Annual meeting in May and noted that the floor would again be open to nominations from the floor.

Draft Proposed Workplan and Budget: Adam distributed a draft Workplan and Budget proposal for FY18, starting July 1, 2017. He asked the Commissioners to review the draft and noted that he would ask the Commission to vote on the Workplan and Budget at its June meeting. In the meantime, he invited those with questions or concerns regarding the Workplan or Budget to speak to him.

Other: None.

IX. Member Concerns. Stan noted that he was concerned about proposals for several very large 20 MW solar arrays around the state noting that he felt they were too large a scale for Vermont and the Addison Region.

Arabella Holzapfel noted that Ferrisburgh passed its Town Plan to its Selectboard who would hold their first hearing on May 9, 2017.

Ed Payne noted that Bridport also recently completed a draft of their Plan and would be sending it to their Selectboard for approval shortly.

X. Adjourn. On a motion to adjourn by Steve Pilcher, seconded by Tom Scanlon and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Adam Lougee