

*Draft*  
Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
Transportation Advisory Committee  
Meeting

*Wednesday 20 Apr 2011*

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee meeting held at the ACRPC office at 14 Seminary St with Jeff Nelson presiding.

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**ROLL CALL:**

<i>Addison:</i>	<i>Jeff Nelson</i>	<i>Orwell:</i>	<i>Carla Ochs</i>
<i>Bristol:</i>		<i>Panton:</i>	
<i>Bridport:</i>	<i>Andrew Manning</i>	<i>Ripton:</i>	
<i>Cornwall:</i>		<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	<i>Bob McNary</i>	<i>Shoreham:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	
<i>Lincoln:</i>	<i>Will Sipse</i>	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Middlebury:</i>	<i>Bill Finger</i>	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	<i>Thea Gaudette</i>	<i>Whiting:</i>	
<i>New Haven:</i>			

**VTrans Coordinator:** *Sue Clark* (not present) **Guests:** *Craig Dusablon* (VTrans), *Debra Dusablon*

**STAFF:** *Richard Kehne*

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**Business Meeting**

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- 1) **Call to Order:** 7:00 pm. By Jeff Nelson.
- 2) **Review of 3-16-11 Minutes** **Corrections:** Remove Thea from the March attendance list. **Motion:** Bob; **2<sup>nd</sup>:** Thea **Vote:** 7-0-0
- 3) **Invasive Species along Roadways:** *Guest speaker: Craig Dusablon (VTrans Horticulturalist)*

Craig opened saying the discussion would be centered around invasive species and brush and vegetation removal to improve sightlines and safety. He said that he has been working with several Addison County town road foremen to get permits for herbicide use. This process is nearing completion and the permits will be issued shortly. In terms of invasive species, it is important to control them because they tend to push out indigenous species. It has a very negative effect on the environment in general. Road foremen tend to be interested in this more in terms of them being a weed that encroaches on transportation infrastructure. Some are very poisonous...like wild parsnip. They must be handled very carefully. Giant Hogweed is another very dangerous plant even worse than wild parsnip. It has now arrived in Central Vermont. Currently, about 15% of the plants across the state are considered invasive plants. Wild Chervil is almost crossing the borders into Ripton. VTrans is trying to control further spread. There is little chance of eradication of any of these species so the emphasis is on control. Mowers are a common means of spreading these plants, so the districts have started cleaning equipment regularly. Phragmites is another species that is a problem along roads along with Purple Loosestrife. VTrans is partnering with Vermont Local Roads to get training out to the municipalities. Japanese knotweed (bamboo) is another extremely invasive species. Its roots are too shallow to make it an effective soil protector, but it grows very densely and is a real problem with sight lines. The Vermont Invasive Species Council tries to identify the most serious problems that pose the greatest threat and then focus efforts toward their control. As the climate moderates, southern species are moving north. Ailanthus is one of these. A single plant was recently identified and removed. It is just one of many on the move. If you move quickly, you can sometime eradicate species when they first encroach...but this has very limited success. Sometimes mowing too often works against you. An example of this is Golden rod. This native species is allelopathic...it gives off a natural herbicide to kill competing plants. Mowing too often kills it, thus opening the land up to invasive's. Bob noted that the poisonous invasive's are really a problem in Ferrisburgh. Last year, 2 of the 3 road crew members were injured by wild parsnip and were out for significant amount of time. Craig then took questions: Thea: How many species that were considered invasive are now actually considered indigenous? Craig said that he can't really answer that...that would be a question for a geneticist. A certain amount of mixing is really good...but we are getting inundated by Asian species that have no predators. The term Invasive Species by definition includes all plants that have been introduced since colonial times. Plants tend to move around via ballast in ships and the like. Herbicide usage is limited to poisonous invasive's. Towns must have a management plan in place to get a use permit.

On the subject of vegetation along roadways, safety is the bottom line. Property owners are often against removing trees but in the end, safety trumps scenery. Once a hazard has been identified, liability falls on the town if they don't remove them from the right-of-way clear zone. For more information Google Vermont Local Roads.org and go to the workshops section. Click on workshop materials and you will get plenty of information on species and on best management practices for dealing with

them. It also gives info on legal issues, stormwater management, and many other relevant areas. Another good website is [vermontinvasiveplant.org](http://vermontinvasiveplant.org).

#### 4) Member Forum :

*Ralph:*

*Andrew:* VT 125 in Cornwall from the ledges to the college is in very bad shape.

*Bill: Carla:*

*Bob:*

*Jeff: Pass*

*Thea:* Thea asked Rick to send around an updated list of the Current TAC members.

*Bill: Pass*

*Will:* *The Trucheon Bridge has a 3' square hole in it. It is currently restricted to one-way traffic and repairs are being planned*

- 5) **Election of Officers:** Jeff said that he is not going to run again as chair. He has been doing it for many years and he felt that it is time to hand on the reigns. Jeff then asked for nominations: Thea nominated Will as Chair and Jeff as vice chair.. Motion: Thea Second; Bill 7-0-0.

#### 6) Legislative Update:

Rick gave a brief update of transportation issues being addressed by the legislature. These included:

- At this point it looks like there has been a \$17 million reduction in Federal funding to Vermont in recent months. About \$12 million of this is transportation. House Trans is taking testimony on this today.
- The Senate has brought the proposed town sidewalk program back under the umbrella of the town structures program. There will still be a 50% local match necessary with these funds, but the process will be less expensive and time consuming because these are 100% state funds...no federal \$\$ are involved.
- Other issues:
  - A 3 foot whole has appeared in the Lincoln Trucheon Bridge deck (Br 19). It is currently open to one lane traffic.
  - The VT 74 bridge is still on track to qualify as a SEP 24 project. Deck replacement will likely happen this fall if VTrans is able to close the bridge for 3 to 4 weeks. The project is still under development.

#### Announcements:

- a. Mar Harrison is leaving the TAC and the Ripton Select Board will be appointing a replacement. Thank you Mar for all of your dedicated years of service!! .

**Adjourn: 8:55pm; motion:** Bill; 2nd: Thea. *Vote:* 7-0-0