

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 12, 2018

ACRPC held its monthly meeting at its office on Seminary Street in Middlebury with the Chair, Diane Benware of Leicester, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Edward Payne
Andrew Manning

Orwell:

Bristol: Peter Grant

Panton: Jamie Dayton

Cornwall: Stan Grzyb

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Ferrisburgh: Arabella Holzapfel
Steve Huffaker

Salisbury:

Goshen: Jim Pulver

Shoreham: Linda Oaks

Leicester: Diane Benware

Starksboro:

Lincoln:

Vergennes: Cheryl Brinkman
Shannon Haggett

Middlebury: Ted Davis
Ross Conrad
Ashley Laux (A)

Waltham:

Weybridge:

Monkton: Wendy Sue Harper

Whiting: Ellen Kurrelmeyer

New Haven: Harvey Smith
Tim Bouton

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:

Kent Wright

Addison County Economic Development Corp:

Otter Creek Audubon Society:

Ron Payne

Otter Creek Natural Resources:

Addison County Chamber of Commerce:

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Diane Benware

Vice-Chair: Steve Pilcher

Secretary: Tim Davis

Treasurer: Ted Davis

At Large: Steve Revell
Shannon Haggett
Nick Causton

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee

Assistant Director/GIS Manager: Kevin Behm

Land use Planner: Claire Tebbs

Transportation Planner:

Emergency Planner: Andrew L'Roe

Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino

Eco-Americorps member: Allison Dinwiddie

7:00 BUSINESS MEETING: Diane opened the meeting and introduced the first order of business.

I. Approval of Minutes. A motion by Ted Davis to accept the July 12, 2018 minutes, seconded by Ellen Kurrelmeyer was approved by voice vote with Arabella Holzapel, Shannon Haggett and Stan Grzyb abstaining.

II. Executive Board Minutes: Diane noted that the Executive Board draft minutes are included in the meeting package. She explained that they are available for the Commission's information, but do not require any action. Upon hearing no questions regarding the draft Executive Board meeting minutes, Diane moved to the next item on the agenda.

III. Treasurers Report: Adam presented the Treasurer's Report. Adam noted that the budget is complete but unaudited through the end of FY 2018. Vance DeBouter, ACRPC's accountant will conduct the audit later this month and Adam will bring it to the commission for a vote in November or December. As of the end of the year, revenues slightly exceed expenses and Adam believes we will end the year in the black. Adam noted he was happy to take any questions. A motion by Jeremy Grip to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Ross Conrad was approved unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Committee Reports:

ACT250/248 Committee: Ellen reported the Act 250/248 Committee had reviewed 4 applications.

1. ACoRN's 150 kW Solar project on Watch Point Road in Shoreham.
2. Purpose Energy filed a 45 -day notice form to build an anaerobic digestion unit in the Middlebury Industrial Park next to the Vermont Soap Company to use food waste products from Agri-Mark, Otter Creek Brewing and other manufacturing entities in the park to produce 1MW of electricity.
3. An Act 250 Application from Hillside Precision to construct a precision tool manufacturing facility on Route 116 in the Town of Bristol.
4. 60 Day Notice of the Cornwall Fire Department to replace its radio antenna structure with a new antenna and tower totaling 120 feet high.

The Committee recommended that the Commission not act on the Cornwall Fire Department application as they did not deem it as having significant regional impact.

The Committee noted that it would ask Purpose Energy some questions, but did not require any other action at this time.

The Committee noted that it questioned whether Hillside Precision had regional significance, but supported the project. It is a less than 10,000 ft building located in a place planned and zoned for light industrial growth in Bristol and therefore within the Regional Plan. **Ellen Kurrelmeyer moved that the Commission support the Hillside Precision application. Wendy Sue Harper seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Lastly, the Committee noted that the Commission had already approved the Watch Point Road Solar Area. It noted that while the applicant had amended the application to allow it to create a berm to store agricultural soil, no other portion of the application had changed. The Committee recommended that the Commission maintain its support for the project. **Ross Conrad moved that the Commission support the Committee recommendation and retain its support for the project. Cheryl Brinkman seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote with Wendy Sue Harper abstaining.**

Energy Committee: Jeremy Grip reported that the Energy Committee will meet again October 2nd, 2018.

Natural Resources: The Natural Resources Committee will meet just before the next full commission meeting on October 10th at 6:00 p.m.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC met in August and began reviewing the TAC grant applications. He also noted that Stantec, the engineering firm hired to lead the Vergennes 22A Truck study conducted its opening meeting with the group to determine how the study would proceed.

Local Government Committee: The Local Government Committee did not meet.

V. Joint Partners Report: No Report.

VI. Delegate Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights: Adam handed out the monthly highlights. Adam asked all to look at the newsletter. ACRPC has a lot going on this month. He highlighted a brownfields training in Middlebury on September 20th, the Vergennes Truck study on September 26th at the Opera House in Vergennes and an Essentials training here at ACRPC at 5:30 on September 27th.

VII. Old Business.

Committees and Programs: Adam reminded the Commission that the Executive Board reappoints committees in September. He noted that this meetings package includes the committee assignments the Executive Board made based upon the request of each Commissioner.

Other: Adam noted that he is still looking for programs. He will have a housing program once the new statewide database becomes active. Ross Conrad suggested a program regarding pesticide use.

Adam also provided an update on the recently adopted Energy Plan. He told the Commission he expected the Department of Public Service would hold a hearing on ACRPC's plan sometime in October.

VIII. New Business

Town Energy Planning: Adam noted that ACRPC would start a new round of at least 3 towns this fall. He asked all towns interesting in applying to send him a letter of interest by October 1st, so the Energy Committee could review it on October 2nd.

Staffing: Adam informed the Commission that he had some good candidates apply for the Transportation Planning position and that he would be interviewing for a permanent position shortly. In the meantime, he noted he had hired Susan Schreiber on a temporary part-time basis to help ACRPC with the Category A grants. He also noted that ACRPC's new Americorps service member, Allie Dinwiddie, would start next week.

Other: Bill Sayre noted that the cost of the MRGP may cause towns to abandon their class IV roads, rather than repair them. He expressed concern about the unintended consequences of the permit.

IX. Member Concerns.

X. Adjourn. On a motion to adjourn by Arabella Holzapfel, seconded by Jeremy Grip and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Adam Lougee