

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, Nov 13, 2019

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

Bristol:

Cornwall: Stan Grzyb

Ferrisburgh: Arabella Holzapfel
Steve Huffaker

Goshen: Jim Pulver

Leicester: Diane Benware

Lincoln:

Middlebury: Karl Neuse
Ross Conrad
Andy Hooper

Monkton: Thea Gaudette
Wendy Sue Harper
Steve Pilcher
Charlie Huizenga

New Haven: Harvey Smith
Jim Walsh

Orwell:

Panton: James Dayton

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Salisbury:

Shoreham: Nick Causton

Starksboro: Richard Warren

Vergennes: Shannon Haggett

Waltham:

Weybridge:

Whiting:

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
Bob Feuerstein
Ron Payne
Paul Wagner
Bob Feuerstein

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Diane Benware
Vice-Chair: Stephen Pilcher
Secretary: Tim Davis
Treasurer: Nick Causton
At Large: Shannon Haggett
Ross Conrad
Tom Scanlon

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee
Assistant Director/GIS Manager: Kevin Behm
Land Use Planner: Katie Raycroft-Meyer
Transportation Planner: Mike Winslow
Emergency Planner: Andrew L'Roe
Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino
Eco-Americorps member: Benton Wright

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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7:00 BUSINESS MEETING: Diane Benware, the Chair, called the monthly Meeting to order at 7:00 to address the Commission's agenda. Kevin Behm, Assistant Director, was filling-in for the Executive Director.

- I. Approval of the October 9, 2019 minutes:** Ed Payne moved approval of the minutes. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote with Ross Conrad, Bob Feuerstein and Diane Benware abstaining.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Diane noted that the Executive Board minutes are in the package for your information.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Kevin noted that the Treasurer's report dated November 13th looked good. The checkbook balance was at \$95,037 up from the balance of \$44,648 at the Executive board on October 30th. He also noted that FY19 receivables were \$15,600 from our Municipal Energy Grant and FY20 receivables of \$55,517. Kevin asked if there were any questions on the Treasurer's Report. **Jeremy Grip moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ross Conrad seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**

Act 250: No meeting.

Energy: Jeremy Grip reported the committee met in Leicester to review Leicester's Energy Plan. This was the first energy plan reviewed under the Commission's authority to review municipal energy plans having been awarded approval of the regional energy plan by the Department of Public Service. The energy committee recommends approval of the Leicester Energy Plan by the ACRPC. **Ross Conrad moved to accept the Energy Committee's recommendation and approve the Leicester Energy Plan. Karl Neuse seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.** Ross asked if there was another level of approval and Kevin stated that he did not believe there was – Leicester energy policies would now receive 'substantial deference' from the Public Utilities Commission in a renewable energy siting hearing.

Local Government: No meeting.

Natural Resources: Arabella Holzafel reported that the NRC took a last look at their comments and conformance review of the draft Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan. They made no changes to the version mailed in each delegate's package and respectfully asks the Commission to approve their recommendation that the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan is in conformance with the Addison County Regional Plan. Richard Warren stated that he felt the presentation of the Basin Plan at the last meeting indicated that the Basin Plan was mostly an inventory document without much planning policy. Ross Conrad asked if the prepared comments on the draft plan had been provided to all delegates, which Kevin confirmed. **Ed Payne moved to affirm the NRC's finding that the Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan is in conformance with the Regional Plan. Arabella Holzafel seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.**

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



Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew Manning reported that the TAC had discussed the intersection at Monkton Road and States Prison Hollow Rd in Monkton. He also wanted to remind delegates that the Agency of Transportation is conducting a statewide transit survey.

Economic Development: Bob Feuerstein reported that the committee was compiling survey responses from the members who represent various business activities and the committee is asking for additional responses.

Population and Housing: No committee members were present due to illness. Kevin pointed delegates to the staff highlights page and noted that Katie Raycroft-Meyer, staff to the Population and Housing committee, had recently attended workshops for the **Zoning for Great Neighborhoods** project. Shannon Haggett had also participated in the workshops and commented that zoning policies were being reviewed in 6 communities for techniques to address housing for smaller households. Vergennes is one of the participating communities.

V. Joint Partner's Report: No report.

VI. Delegate/Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights: Diane recognized and welcomed a new delegate from Middlebury, Andy Hooper, who introduced himself as a new resident of Middlebury with previous public board experience in Montpelier.

Kevin referred back to the staff highlight page. He noted Mike's involvement with a VTrans Elderly and Disabled transit survey that will be conducted in January. Also, Andrew, Mike and Adam participated in Vermont Emergency Management's annual 3-day Statewide Emergency Exercise. They were also called-upon to perform our local liaison function of calling all municipal contacts for damage reports and cost estimates during the Halloween rainstorm event.

VII. Old Business:

Water Quality Basin Plan Review: The draft Otter Creek Tactical Basin Plan was affirmed in conformance with the Addison County Regional Plan under Committee Reports.

Audit schedule: Kevin said that the auditor is working on the audit and should have a draft prepared for the next Executive Board meeting. The EBoard will review the draft and forward the document to the Commission for the December meeting. Note that the EBoard will be meeting on Dec 4th and the Commission on the 11th.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business:

Governor's Capital for a Day: Representative Harvey Smith provided a schedule of events for next Monday, the 18th, when Governor Scott and his Extended Cabinet will be in Addison County for the day. All the events are open to the public. Harvey encouraged delegates to attend any of the events.

Impact of Halloween rainstorm on Addison County: Andrew L'Roe, ACRPC's Emergency Planner, prepared a summary document highlighting the impact of the recent Halloween flooding. Kevin passed out the summary which maps flood and road damage estimates by town statewide and provides several photos of road damage in Monkton and Bridport. The damage estimates in Addison County exceeded the \$140,000 threshold, based on \$3.78 per capita, to be included in the Disaster Declaration request. Chittenden, Franklin Lamoille, Orange, Orleans and Washington counties also met the damage threshold.

Other: Jim Walsh and Kevin briefly mentioned the opportunity for municipalities to participate in the consolidated opioid lawsuit. They were both unclear on the ramifications of this complex litigation but Kevin recalled a recent news article in VTDigger.org that discussed some of the issues for Vermont towns. He will send out the information.

IX. Member's Concerns/Information

Harvey Smith also noted that there will be a Public Hearing on Wetlands Regulation in the State on Wednesday, Nov 20th, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the Bridport Community/Masonic Hall, 52 Crown Point Road, Bridport. The Legislative Study Committee on Wetlands is reviewing wetlands permitting standards, exemptions from wetlands, permit fees and other issues related to wetlands regulation. Harvey is a member of the committee and encourages the public to testify if they have concerns about wetlands.

X. Adjournment:

There being no further business; **Karl Neuse moved adjournment. Ed Payne seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:30 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Behm
Assistant Director/GIS Manager