

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 2018

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: William Sayre
Peter Grant

Cornwall:

Ferrisburgh: Steve Huffaker
Tim Davis

Goshen:

Leicester: Diane Benware

Lincoln: Steve Revell

Middlebury: Karl Neuse
Ted Davis
Ross Conrad

Monkton: Stephen Pilcher
Wendy Sue Harper

New Haven: Harvey Smith

Orwell:

Panton: Jamie Dayton

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Salisbury: Tom Scanlon
Barrie Bailey

Shoreham: Nick Causton

Starksboro:

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

Bob Feuerstein

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Jeremy Grip

Vice-Chair: Diane Benware

Secretary: Nick Causton

Treasurer: Ted Davis

At Large: David Hamilton

Steve Revell

Tim Davis

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee

Assistant Director/GIS Manager: Kevin Behm

Land use Planner: Claire Tebbs

Transportation Planner: Josh Donabedian

Emergency Planner: Andrew L'Roe

Office Manager/Bookkeeper: Pauline Cousino

Eco-Americorps member: Nicole Boudah

7:00 p.m. Hearing on the amendment of the Energy Section of the Addison County Regional Plan and re-adoption of the entire Addison County Regional Plan. Jeremy opened the public hearing section of the agenda. For comments on the Draft Regional Energy Plan.

Mel Hawley of Vergennes suggested that the Committee review a sentence on page 29 regarding solar street lighting. He questioned whether it was accurate and realistic.

Steve Huffaker noted that the grid does not serve as a storage system for energy, recommended the Commission strike that line from the proposed draft and substitute alternative language which he supplied. He also supplied other written, technical corrections to the document.

Wendy Sue Harper noted that salt-based storage batteries were already a viable technology.

Bob Feuerstein noted that the plan needed to address maintaining the existing capacity of the grid and working to keep areas from becoming overloaded to serve the needs of the region and improving areas that become overloaded or close to capacity.

Mel Hawley noted that the “Good” Siting locations delineated in the Plan should include areas designated as preferred for solar by the Commission’s member communities.

Peter Grant and Ted Davis noted that smart meters already exist to help people monitor their consumption and should be more extensively used to promote conservation of energy.

Hearing no further comments, Jeremy closed the first public hearing on the Energy Section of the Addison County Regional Plan and re-adoption of the entire Plan.

Adam thanked the Commission for its comments on the Draft Energy Plan. He noted he had also received several other written comments, most notably from the Department of Public Service. Adam noted that he would work with the Energy Committee immediately to implement appropriate changes to address the comments received. He would then send out a new copy of the Plan to statutory parties and all commission members. He noted that to send the draft 30 days prior to the next hearing as required, he would need to move the July full Commission meeting and **requested that the Commission move its next meeting to July 18, 2018 to accommodate the second public hearing on the draft energy plan. The Commission voted to move its meeting to July 18, 2018 as requested.**

7:15 BUSINESS MEETING: Jeremy opened the meeting and introduced the first order of business.

I. Approval of Minutes. A motion by Steve Revell to accept the April 11, 2018 minutes, seconded by Tom Scanlon was approved by voice vote.

A motion by Ted Davis to accept the May 9, 2018 minutes, seconded by Ellen Kurrelmeyer was approved by voice vote with Tom Scanlon, Barrie Bailey and Harvey Smith abstaining.

II. Executive Board Minutes: Jeremy noted that the Executive Board draft minutes are included in the meeting package. He 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, Jeremy move to the next item on the agenda.

III. Treasurers Report: Adam presented the Treasurer's Report. Adam noted that revenues are significantly behind expenses through May, though not all May revenue has been billed. He analyzed the monthly budget and explained he expected to make up the deficit by the end of the year, largely through the Category A grant program, but warned the budget will be very tight. **A motion by Tom Scanlon to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Steve Revell 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 Committee had reviewed Middlebury Ventures Solar's request to deem its existing solar site, plus some additional acreage in between the existing arrays as a "preferred net metered site". **The Committee concluded it is a good site and recommends that the Commission join the Town of Middlebury as deeming it a "preferred area". All approved, with Bob Feuerstein abstaining. Adam will send them a letter noting the decision prior to the end of the month.**

Ferrisburgh Solar: The Committee previously reviewed this application, requested changes in the location of the access road, but otherwise deemed it a good site. The Town of Ferrisburgh has entered an MOU with the developer and supports the project. **The Committee recommends that ACRPC support the project. On a voice vote, all approved with Bob Feuerstein abstaining.**

The Committee reviewed a 45-day notice for two small wind turbines on the Rusty John Farm in Addison off Route 17 by the West Addison General Store. The Committee generally supports the application but will hold its recommendation until it receives a full application.

Ellen noted that the Tractor Supply Store it reviewed earlier in the year had applied for a permit to alter Route 7 to construct a left turn lane and appears to be moving forward.

Lastly, Ellen noted that the Committee reviewed a 45-day notice proposal from Landfill Solar in Starksboro to build a facility on the closed landfill in Starksboro. The Committee supports the site as proposed but will wait for the full application to issue a recommendation.

Energy Committee: Jeremy Grip reported that the Energy Committee met with VELCO to hear about its Long Range Plan and then reviewed proposed changes to the draft Energy Section of the Regional Plan subject to the hearing earlier.

Natural Resources: The Natural Resources Committee met to discuss the Otter Creek Basin Plan just prior to the full commission meeting.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met in May and reviewed the tunnel Project in Middlebury and the Creek Road Middlebury Stability study.

Local Government Committee: The Local Government Committee shall report its previous meeting with towns under new business.

V. Joint Partners Report: None.

VI. Delegate Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights: Adam handed out the monthly highlights. Adam introduced Andrew L’Roe as ACRPC’s new Emergency Planner. Andrew said a few words about himself and stated he was pleased to attend the meeting. Adam also referenced Josh’s notice that the TAC will devote its next meeting to VTran’s Long Range Transportation Plan.

VII. Old Business.

Proposed Workplan and Budget: Adam presented the Commission with a draft workplan and budget for FY 2019 beginning on July 1, 2018. Adam walked the Commission through the budget and Workplan, explaining the changes he had made to the draft he first proposed at the April Full Commission meeting. **Ross Conrad moved that the Commission accept the Workplan and Budget as Proposed for FY 2019. Tom Scanlon seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Other: None.

VIII. New Business

Vote to designate a solar site in Middlebury at South Ridge Solar Park as a preferred area. See the Report of the Act 250/248 Committee and vote on its recommendation above.

Vote to regionally confirm the planning process for the Town of Whiting and regionally adopt the Whiting Town Plan. On behalf of the Local Government Committee, Shannon Haggett noted that it had held a public hearing on the Whiting Town Plan jointly with the Whiting Planning Commission. After the hearing the Committee voted to recommend to the Full Commission that Whiting was engaged in a planning process and that the Whiting Town Plan contained all required elements and should be granted regional approval. On behalf of the committee, **Shannon moved that ACRPC should confirm the planning process for the Town of Whiting and regionally adopt the Whiting Town Plan. The Commission approved the Local Government Committee's recommendation unanimously by voice vote.**

Town Selection of Delegates and Alternates: Adam reminded the Commission that new terms begin on July 1, 2018 and asked each Commissioner interested in returning to speak with their Selectboard and have them return their appointment information to ACRPC prior to July 1, 2018 so they can be officially re-seated as delegates.

Committees and Programs: Adam also reminded the Commission that with the beginning of the new fiscal year, the Executive Board reappoints committees in September. He noted that in the package for the July meeting, changed to July 18th this year, he will include a description of each committee and a request that each Commission member choose at least one committee to serve on. He also asked Commissioners for their ideas regarding programs to be held at the full commission meeting each month. If commissioners have planning topics they would like to learn about, Adam requested that they share those ideas with him so he can line up the program.

Other: Bob Feuerstein, the new member representing the Chamber of Commerce asked if ACRPC had ever envisioned setting outer limits to cap the population in the Region, similar to those that the City of Boulder Colorado had set. Adam responded that the Commission had not, as the growth pressures and land use ownership and patterns in the Addison Region are significantly different from those in Boulder.

Ron Crawford noted that at the Car show at the Shelburne Museum this weekend they would be exhibiting a lot of interesting cars, including a section of electric cars.

Ron also noted that on Monday June 25th the Great Race benefitting Autism research would be travelling from Bennington to Burlington and would be worth seeing.

IX. Member Concerns. Jeremy Grip, noted that it was his last meeting as Chair. He thanked the Commission for the privilege of serving as the Chair. He also thanked the commission for its civility to one another as we discussed issues impacting our communities. The Commission thanked Jeremy for his good work and service.

X. Adjourn. On a motion to adjourn by Peter Grant, seconded by Ted Davis and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Adam Lougee