

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
July 18, 2018

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

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**ROLL CALL:**

*Addison:*

*Bridport:* Edward Payne  
Andrew Manning

*Orwell:*

*Bristol:* Peter Grant

*Panton:* Jamie Dayton

*Cornwall:*

*Ripton:* Jeremy Grip

*Ferrisburgh:* Tim Davis

*Salisbury:* Tom Scanlon

*Goshen:* Jim Pulver

*Shoreham:* Nick Causton  
Linda Oaks

*Leicester:* Diane Benware

*Lincoln:* Steve Revell

*Starksboro:*

*Middlebury:* Karl Neuse  
Ted Davis  
Ross Conrad  
Ashley Laux (A)

*Vergennes:* Cheryl Brinkman

*Waltham:*

*Monkton:* Stephen Pilcher

*Weybridge:* Ron Crawford

*Whiting:* Ellen Kurrelmeyer

*New Haven:* Harvey Smith  
Tim Bouton

**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

**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:* Josh Donabedian  
*Emergency Planner:* Andrew L'Roe  
*Office Manager/Bookkeeper:* Pauline Cousino  
*Eco-Americorps member:* Nicole Boudah

# Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

Tim Bouton, the new delegate from New Haven spoke. He wants the Energy Plan to have more implementation steps. Specifically, he would like to see more action around conservation and efficiency. He also wants the Commission to use the Plan to advocate more for the Region and to advocate for changes in Rule 5.100 regarding net metering. Tim requested that the Commission wait on adopting the plan until it addresses the concerns he raised.

Tim Davis noted that Steve Huffaker, another delegate from Ferrisburgh, could not be here this evening, but had provided ACRPC with written comments recommending several grammatical changes. Tim shared Steve's comments with the group. After review, the Commission agreed that Steve's proposed changes were editorial based, not policy based.

Harvey Smith stated that the Commission should not wait on the plan. It should move forward with what it has. That does not preclude any action Tim would like to take.

Tim Bouton stated that ACRPC was adopting the State's plan, not its own. He wants the plan to advocate for the Region at the Public Utilities Commission.

Jeremy Grip, as chair of the Energy Committee noted he believed the proposed Energy Sub-section of the Plan contained significant elements concerning conservation and efficiency, that it would satisfy the required framework and that ACRPC should move the Plan.

Ed Payne noted that both the Natural Resources Committee and Energy Committee had worked extensively on the plan. He observed that although the statewide renewable goals the plan seeks to address are significant, he believes the plan constitutes a good plan to start addressing them.

Ted Davis noted that the plan looks to make changes at the Regional level.

Tom Scanlon Noted he did not want to delay passing the plan.

Karl Neuse asked the delegates to have one conversation.

Ross Conrad and Tim Bouton expressed concerns that two phrases on p. 5 and 33 regarding the amount of electric use conflicted with one another.

Adam Lougee responded that page 5 reflected statewide energy demand increases and page 33 reflected demand in the Addison Region, so the statements did not conflict.

Ellen Kurrelmeyer, Harvey Smith, Ron Crawford and Steve Pilcher all commented that the plan gets us together moving in a positive direction.

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



Diane noted that most of the comments seemed to be about whether to pass the plan, not about its content. She noted that we would debate that later in the evening when the vote comes up. She asked for any other public comments on the content of the plan. Hearing none, she thanked the Commission and others for their comments on the Draft Energy Plan and closed the public hearing.

**8:00 BUSINESS MEETING:** Diane opened the meeting and introduced the first order of business.

**I. Approval of Minutes. A motion by Tom Scanlon to accept the June 13, 2018 minutes, seconded by Harvey Smith was approved by voice vote.**

**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 revenues are significantly behind expenses through June, but also noted no revenue for June or the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter has been billed. He analyzed the monthly budget and explained he expected to make up all or nearly all 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 Ellen Kurrelmeyer to approve the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Tom Scanlon was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

#### **IV. Committee Reports:**

ACT250/248 Committee: Ellen noted that the committee had not met since the last full commission meeting and had not received any new applications.

Energy Committee: Jeremy Grip reported that the Energy Committee met just after the last full commission meeting to revise the plan to reflect comments received at the first hearing. This month it took a well-deserved break after working extensively to create the draft Energy Section of the Plan.

Natural Resources: The Natural Resources Committee did not meet.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Andrew manning reported that the TAC met in June and reviewed the VTrans Long Range Transportation Plan and the Municipal Roads General Permit requirements.

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

**V. Joint Partners Report:** Ron Crawford noted that the Addison County Economic Development Corporation was studying ways to promote the Region and asking appropriate questions regarding other types of industry that are not currently located in the Region, but should be.

**VI. Delegate Staff Recognition/ Project Highlights:** Adam handed out the monthly highlights. Adam introduced Tim Bouton to the Commission as a new delegate from New Haven and Ashley Laux to the Commission as a new Alternate from Middlebury. Tim and Ashley introduced themselves. Diane welcomed them to the Commission.

### **VII. Old Business.**

Town Selection of Delegates and Alternates: Adam thanked the delegates and alternates for agreeing to serve again and noted he had received delegate and alternate appointments from all towns except Orwell.

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 this meetings package includes a description of each committee and a request that each Commission member choose at least one committee to serve on. He asked all to get them in at the end of the meeting or to send them to Pauline at [pcousino@acrpc.org](mailto:pcousino@acrpc.org) after the meeting. 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. **Ashley Laux suggested that the Commission invite Jeanne Montross for the Continuum of Care to present their new study regarding homelessness and the need for affordable housing. Tim Bouton suggested he would like to see a program on Act 250.**

Other: None.

### **VIII. New Business**

Vote on the Energy Sub-section of the Addison County Regional Plan and Re-Adoption of the entire Plan: **Peter Grant moved that the Addison County Regional Planning Commission vote to amend the Energy Sub-section of the Addison County Regional Plan and re-adopt the entire Plan. Tom Scanlon Seconded the motion.** The Commission entered into a lengthy discussion regarding whether it should adopt the Energy Sub-section of the plan as proposed, or if it should send it back to committee and include more action items. Tim Bouton asked the Commission whether it would amend the Plan to include an additional action item involving advocating for changes to the net metering rules that would promote PV development by individual homeowners. The Commission felt

that adding the language would constitute a substantial change to the Plan requiring a new public hearing. However, several also expressed the opinion that the Plan already supported that action and that the Energy Committee could and would pursue it without a Plan change. After further discussion, **Ted Davis called the question. Ed Pane seconded his motion to call the question and the Commission approved calling the question by voice vote.** The Commission proceeded to the vote on Peter Grant's original motion to amend the Energy Sub-section of the Addison County Regional Plan and re-adopt the entire Plan. Prior to the vote Adam took the roll of delegates and alternates attending the meeting. He reminded the Commission that amendments to the Regional Plan required a 60% vote by all seated delegates. ACPRC currently has 33 seated delegates requiring at least 20 delegates to vote in favor of the Plan for it to pass. Also, he reminded the citizen interest delegates that they cannot vote on adoption of the Regional Plan.

After taking the roll call Adam polled each delegate present regarding their vote. A tally of the votes follows:

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Representatives</i>	<i>Vote Y/N/A<sup>1</sup></i>
<i>Addison:</i>		
<i>Bridport:</i>	Edward Payne	Y
	Andrew Manning	Y
<i>Bristol:</i>	Peter Grant	Y
<i>Cornwall:</i>		
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Tim Davis	Y
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	Y
<i>Leicester:</i>	Diane Benware	Y
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	Y
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Karl Neuse	Y
	Ted Davis	Y
	Ross Conrad	Y
	Ashley Laux (A)	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Stephen Pilcher	Y
<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith	Y
	Tim Bouton	A

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<sup>1</sup> Y = Yes  
 N = No  
 A = Abstain

*Orwell:*

*Panton:* Jamie Dayton Y  
*Ripton:* Jeremy Grip Y

*Salisbury:* Tom Scanlon Y

*Shoreham:* Nick Causton Y  
Linda Oaks Y

*Starksboro:*

*Vergennes:* Cheryl Brinkman Y

*Waltham:*

*Weybridge:* Ron Crawford Y

*Whiting:* Ellen Kurrelmeyer Y

**At the end of the vote Adam tallied the votes and noted that the motion passed 20-0, with one abstention.**

Calendar of Commission Meetings: Adam noted that in the package he included a calendar of the Commission meetings for the year. He pointed out that the Full Commission does not meet in August.

Other:

**IX. Member Concerns.**

**X. Adjourn. On a motion to adjourn by Peter Grant, seconded by Tom Scanlon and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by: Adam Lougee