

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 • www.acrpc.org • Phone: 802.388.3141

Meeting Minutes Addison County Regional Planning Commission Wednesday, November 10, 2021

ACRPC held its monthly meeting at its office and via google meet with the Vice-Chair Shannon Haggett of Vergennes, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>Orwell:</i>	
		<i>Panton:</i>	James Dayton
<i>Bridport:</i>	Andrew Manning Ed Payne	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Bristol:</i>		<i>Salisbury:</i>	Barrie Bailey Tom Scanlon
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Don Burns	<i>Shoreham:</i>	Nick Causton
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Tim Davis	<i>Starksboro:</i>	Richard Warren
<i>Goshen:</i>	Jim Pulver	<i>Vergennes:</i>	Shannon Haggett Cheryl Brinkman Tim Cook
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Waltham:</i>	Jeff Glassberg
<i>Lincoln:</i>	Steve Revell	<i>Weybridge:</i>	Gioia Kuss
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Ross Conrad Hugh McLaughlin	<i>Whiting:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Wendy Sue Harper Harvey Smith		
<i>New Haven:</i>	Tim Bouton		

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Addison County Farm Bureau:
Addison County Economic Development Corp:
Otter Creek Audubon Society:
Otter Creek Natural Resources: Paul Wagner
Addison County Chamber of Commerce:

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Stephen Pilcher
Vice-Chair: Shannon Haggett
Secretary: Jamie Dayton
Treasurer: Ross Conrad
At Large: Jamie Dayton
Wendy Sue Harper
Jeremy Grip

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee
GIS Manager: John Van Housen
Land Use Planner: Katie Raycroft-Meyer
Transportation Planner: Mike Winslow
Emergency Planner: Andrew L'Roe
Office Manager/Bookkeeper: April Clodgo
Energy Planner: Maddison Shropshire

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Eco-AmeriCorps member: Emma Sandman

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing Population and Housing Section of the Addison County Regional

Plan: Shannon opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by welcoming the commission and any members of the public present. He read the announcement of the Public hearing and opened the floor to public comment.

Cheryl Brinkman of Vergennes complimented Katie Raycroft-Meyer on the plan and her interview with the Addison Independent. Cheryl appreciated the plan's explanation of changes to the population and how those changes had driven the tightness in the current supply of housing.

Wendy Sue Harper of Monkton noted she appreciated the charts and graphs;

Tim Cook and Davis, members of the Housing Committee, also thanked Katie for her work.

Ross Conrad of Middlebury made three substantive comments regarding the Plan:

On page 4 he noted that colonization had done more than "altered" the Abnaki way of life and requested revisions to address this concern.

On page 10 he suggested the plan could do more to address potential climate migrants.

On page 14 he suggested that this section should also speak to climate change and develop standards that limited fossil fuel usage and promoted conservation of energy by building the "right type" of housing.

Ed Payne of Bridport suggested that high-end expensive homes should be built to meet DPS stretch code standards.

Hugh McLaughlin of Middlebury stated that Short term rentals had replaced former rental housing in Salisbury, creating a problem.

Tim Davis of Ferrisburgh noted that the former Brandon training school still had a number of vacant units that could provide abundant housing if it were redeveloped.

Steve Revell of Lincoln noted that the homeless could benefit from the redevelopment of that campus.

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Paul Wagner of the NRCS expressed concern that the climate council was interested in limiting fossil fuel use for heating in new homes. He noted that wood was a labor intensive and dirty alternative and electricity had its own drawbacks.

Hearing no further questions or comments, Shannon thanked participants in the meeting for their comments and closed the hearing at 7:30 p.m. He moved the commission directly to the business meeting.

- I. Approval of the October 13, 2021 minutes:** Paul Wagner moved approval of the minutes. Wendy Sue Harper seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote/show of hands. Steve Revell, Nick Causton, Gioia Kuss and Harvey Smith abstained.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Shannon noted that the Executive Board minutes from October are included in the package and posted on the website for your information. If you have questions, please speak with Adam or a member of the Executive Board.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam gave a Treasurer's Report for the end of September 2021. Adam noted that cash flow is the best ACRPC has ever had, that cash on hand is significantly more than we are used to seeing, and receivables remain high. **Ross Conrad moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Tim Davis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote/show of hands.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**
 - Act 250/Section 248 Committee: Steve Revell spoke on behalf of the committee. He noted it had met to discuss the application of Multy-Builders LLC to re-permit a 6 lot subdivision on RRoute 7 in New Haven. Steve noted the Committee recommended that the commission authorize Adam to issue comments on Criteria 5, traffic, Criteria 8 aesthetics, Criteria 9L Sprawl and Criteria 10 municipal and regional planning. **Steve presented the committee's recommendations and made the committee motion requesting approval and authority for Adam to file the recommendations on behalf of the Commission. All approved on a voice vote/show of hands.**

Local Government, and Natural Resources Committees: No meeting.

Energy Committee: Adam reported that the Committee will meet December 13th to review the New Haven Energy Plan and December 14th to review the Ripton Energy Plan.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Shannon Haggett reported for the TAC. He noted that it had awarded grants to Middlebury, Ripton and Bristol for projects. They also received reports on the Vergennes Planning and Environmental Linkages Study ("PELS"). Lastly, Shannon noted that next Wednesday's TAC meeting would be a joint meeting with the Rutland TAC and would focus on issues on Route 22A between Orwell and Sudbury.

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Economic Development Committee: Adam noted that ACRPC and Addison County Economic Development Committee (“ACEDC”) continue to work on gathering information for their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (“CEDS”) process, which they will also use to inform a joint economic development plan. They held Sector meetings with representatives of eight sectors of the economy and are creating drafts for the committee to review.

V. Joint Partner’s Report/Delegate Staff Recognition: None.

VI. Old Business:

Maple Broadband Addison County CUD Update: Adam gave a brief summary of Maple Broadband activities. He noted that Maple Broadband continues really good work to build out broadband services in the region. It is currently working on high level design for the region with its engineering consultant, Vantagepoint and had spent most of the day at ACRPC’s offices reviewing the plans. It has also just received a \$2.3M grant award from the Vermont Community Broadband Board to fund all of the remainder of its pre-construction activity. Great news for this year. He also noted that Maple Broadband had also been working hard to secure materials so it could build in 2022 and hoped to have the ability to purchase material from the results of its RFQ for materials approved by its board earlier in the month.

ARPA Funding, County Funds legislative expenditures: Adam reported that towns have their allocation of County money in addition to the first installment of town money. The RPCs and VLCT continue to be available to help towns with intertown coordination and advice regarding the Treasury rules. ACRPC will focus on helping towns support well conceived projects that will fuel the local economy in the years to come. ACRPC is creating a dashboard for transparency with the Agency of Administration and VCGI. It is also creating a comprehensive list of state funding that will be available for different activities. Please see the current newsletter and website Andrew has set up for more information.

Brownfields: Adam noted that ACRPC anticipates that a lot more brownfields funding will be available this year and has decided to apply to revive its program. It has not had brownfield funding for many years. ACRPC also knows of several potential brownfields projects in the region so the timing seems right. ACRPC has hired Stantec to help it write a \$500,000 grant application and has just signed a contract for \$100,000 in new brownfields funding. Cheryl Brinkman suggested a location in Ferrisburgh that might be a good site for an assessment. Gioia Kuss recommended looking at the old Maverick gas site in Middlebury and dry cleaners in general.

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Audit schedule: Adam noted that Vance DeBouter, ACRPC's Auditor, would begin his work auditing ACRPC's financial statements from the year ending June 30, 2021 next week. He expects Vance will bring the draft audit to the Executive Board in November and then to the Full Commission for its review and approval at its December meeting.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business:

Vote to approve the Revised FY2022 budget: Adam requested that the Commission table this item of business. He had spoken with Vance today and expressed concern that there may be some formula errors in the spreadsheet. He wants to make sure the budget is accurate before he requests a vote. **The Commission tabled the budget vote.**

Other: None.

IX. Member's Concerns/Information: None.

X. Adjournment: There being no further business, **Ross Conrad moved adjournment. Steve Revell seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:01p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee
Director

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