

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, March 9, 2022

ACRPC held its monthly meeting at its office and via google meet with the Chair Steve Pilcher of Monkton, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport:

Andrew Manning

Orwell:

Panton: James Dayton

Bristol:

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Cornwall:

Stan Gryzb
Don Burns

Salisbury:

Ferrisburgh:

Tim Davis

Shoreham: Nick Causton

Goshen:

Jim Pulver

Starksboro: Richard Warren

Leicester:

Vergennes: Shannon Haggett

Lincoln:

Waltham: Jeff Glassberg

Middlebury:

Andy Hooper
Hugh McLaughlin

Weybridge: Gioia Kuss

Monkton:

Wendy Sue Harper
Stephen Pilcher

Whiting:

New Haven:

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

Eco-AmeriCorps member: Emma Sandman

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



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7:00 p.m. Business Meeting: Stephen Pilcher welcomed the Commissioners and moved the commission directly to the business meeting at 7:01.

- I. Approval of the February 9, 2022 minutes:** Wendy Sue Harper moved approval of the minutes amended to include Gioia Kuss's attendance. Jeffery Glassberg seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously by voice vote/show of hands with Nick Causton abstaining.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** The Executive Board minutes are included in the package for informational purposes. Steve inquired whether any one had questions, no one responded so he moved to the Treasurer's Report.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam gave a Treasurer's Report for the end of January 2022. Adam noted that cash flow remains strong, that cash on hand is significantly more than we are used to seeing, and receivables remain high. Adam noted that earned revenue remains basically even with expenses, once prepaid items are removed. **Shannon Haggett moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Jeremy Grip seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by voice vote/show of hands.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**
 - Act 250/Section 248 Committee, Economic Development, Housing, Local Government and Natural Resources Committees: No meeting.
 - Transportation Advisory Committee: Shannon Haggett noted the committee had received a presentation from VTrans on its plans to rebuild and re-open Route 125 by the Champlain Bridge.
 - Energy Committee: Jeremy Grip reported that **the Committee had changed its meeting night to the First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.** He noted the committee is still looking for more participation. It instructed Maddi that it was most interested in pursuing weatherization work. She will be holding a seminar on weatherizing town buildings on March 22nd at 5:30. At its next meeting the Energy committee will invite CEAC to discuss their Energy Plan and to collaborate.
 - Economic Development Committee: Adam noted that Andrew is organizing a meeting of the Economic Development Committee to support ACRPC's brownfields work.
- V. Joint Partner's Report/Delegate Staff Recognition:** Adam recognized Will Sipsey of Lincoln. Will has served on the TAC for as long as I can remember, most recently serving as Chair. He is stepping down this year. I wanted to officially thank him for the work he did on behalf of his home town of Lincoln and the region.

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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 has completed its high level design for its network and its Engineering Firm, Vantage Point Solutions, is out field checking the network plans's assumptions. He also noted that Maple Broadband continues to work hard to secure materials so it can begin construction of its network in 2022. It has put out a purchase order for cable and issued an RFP to hire a marketing consultant to help it with its pre-subscription campaign. He noted it has chosen vendors and purchased electronic components and cabinets. Adam noted that labor continues to be a concern, but that Maple Broadband is doing everything within its ability to get to construction in 2022. Lastly, Adam thanked the 8 towns that had contributed ARPA funding to help Maple Broadband with its pre-purchase of equipment and cash flow during its startup.

ARPA Funding, ACRPC activities: The RPCs and VLCT continue to be available to help towns with intertown coordination and advice regarding the Treasury rules. Adam noted that on January 6th, the US Treasury issued the [Final Rule for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#), along with an accessible and helpful [overview document](#). The finalized regulations give Towns much more spending flexibility under the "Lost Revenue" category. All recipients in our region can now classify any portion or the entirety of their awards as Lost Revenue, without having to do any of the calculations formerly required under the interim draft rule. Funds that are categorized as "lost revenue" can be spent on "government services", which includes any service traditionally provided by a government. **There are still a number of restrictions and accounting implications to consider, and VLCT is encouraging all recipients to hold off on ARPA spending until further guidance has been developed**, but the final rules substantially opened up opportunities for municipalities to spend their funding. ACRPC will hold a round table on ARPA spending for towns at the end of April and will include a discussion of accounting compliance at that time. ACRPC continues to focus on helping towns support well conceived projects that will fuel the local economy in the years to come. ACRPC continues to work with 4 towns to use APRA funding to supplement other money to rebuild town buildings: Addison, Monkton, Salisbury and Whiting and is open to other discussions with member communities.

Clean Water Service Provider ("CWSP"): Adam noted that we had received a contract to create the Clean Water Service Provider infrastructure in November. Mike has been working to form the Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) and all members have been appointed to that council. ACRPC has also completed work setting up a website for the Clean Water Service Provider and would continue to work on

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organizational documents so the infrastructure supporting the Clean Water Service Provider System will be up and functioning prior to its receipt of funding following July 1, 2022 in the next fiscal year.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business:

Vote to appoint a Nominating Committee: Stephen reminded the Commission that we will vote for a new slate of officers at our annual meeting in May. At its last meeting the Executive Board proposed a slate of members for the Nominating Committee. It now asks the Commission to vote on the Nominating Committee. Steve noted the Executive Board proposed the following commissioners to serve on the nominating committee: Wendy Sue Harper, Chair; Tim Davis and Cheryl Brinkman. Shannon Haggett moved approval of the Nominating Committee. Nick Causton seconded the motion and all approved.

Between March and April, the Nominating Committee will work to find a slate of officers to propose for the Executive Committee. It will present that slate to the Full Commission in April and again in May for a vote of the Commission.

Proposed Budget Amendment (\$15,000) to Addison County Economic Development: Adam requested that the Commission approve a budget amendment allowing him to send \$15,000 to ACEDC this year to support their hiring of a grant writer. ACEDC has pledged to allow ACRPC to also use the grant writer's services. Adam noted that he felt it was a good partnership and a good investment.

Wendy Sue Harper moved to amend the budget to support the grant writer. Shannon Haggett seconded the motion, which all approved.

Annual Meeting: Adam noted the Executive Board would like flexibility to hold an in person annual meeting in May or June, depending upon Covid. The Commission agreed. He also noted that anyone wanting to nominate a peer for the Bertha Hanson Award should speak with a member of the executive committee by its April 27th meeting.

Other: None.

IX. Member's Concerns/Information: None.

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- X. Adjournment:** There being no further business, **Jeremy Grip moved adjournment. All voted in favor. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 7:52 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee
Director

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