

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, December 14, 2022

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

ROLL CALL:

Addison:

Bridport: Andrew Manning

Orwell: Joseph Andriano

Bristol:

Panton:

Cornwall: Stan Grzyb

Ripton: Jeremy Grip

Ferrisburgh: Arabella Holzaphel
Tim Davis

Salisbury:

Goshen: Jim Pulver

Shoreham:

Leicester:

Starksboro: Rich Warren

Lincoln:

Vergennes: Shannon Haggett
Cheryl Brinkman

Middlebury: Barbara Greenewalt
Hugh McLaughlin

Waltham: Jeff Glassberg

Monkton: Stephen Pilcher
Debra Sprague

Weybridge: Gioia Kuss

Whiting:

New Haven: 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:

Ron Payne

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Stephen Pilcher

Vice-Chair: Shannon Haggett

Secretary: Jamie Dayton

Treasurer: Ross Conrad

At Large: Jamie Dayton
Arabella Holzaphel
Jeremy Grip

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee

GIS Manager: Hannah Andrew

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: Zach Roberts

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**Addison County
Regional Planning Commission**

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing concerning ACRPC's proposed Bylaw Amendment to allow shared Services:

Stephen Pilcher welcomed the Commission at 7:00 and opened the public hearing concerning ACRPC's proposed Bylaw Amendment to allow shared services. Stephen invited members of the public to make any comments on the proposed amendment. No members of the public offered any comments. Stephen then opened the hearing to members of the full commission.

Cheryl Brinkman asked what services the commission might perform.

Adam responded that it could be a broad assortment of services, but expected the most likely activities would be shared municipal officials, like town administrators, zoning administrators, listers or other officials.

Gioia Kuss asked what in this proposal the public might object too.

Adam responded that he suspected certain members of the public might object to the expansion of regional powers or responsibilities to more closely resemble county government, which they could object too.

Rich Warren noted that he had spoken with officials in Starksboro about the proposed amendment and that they liked the idea.

Stephen Pilcher noted that working with a full time professional from ACRPC may be more expensive than what towns are used too, but should bring other benefits.

Hearing no further comments, Stephen kept the hearing open for anyone with comments, but proceeded to the commission's regular business.

7:20 p.m. Business Meeting: Stephen Pilcher moved the commission to its business meeting.

- I. Approval of the November 9, 2022 minutes:** Shannon Haggett moved approval of the minutes. Arabella Holzapfel seconded the motion. The minutes passed by voice vote/show of hands. Gioia Kuss abstained.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** The Executive Board minutes were included in the package for informational purposes. No one had any questions regarding their content so Stephen moved on.

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- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam gave a Treasurer's Report for the end of October, 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 revenues are significantly ahead of expenses on a gross basis, and about \$ ahead once prepaid items are removed. **Shannon Haggett moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Tim Davis seconded the motion. The Commission voted to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented unanimously by voice vote/show of hands.**

Stephen Pilcher closed the public hearing at 7:35.

IV. Committee Reports:

Act 250/Section 248, Housing, Local Government Economic Development and Natural Resources: No meeting.

Energy Committee: Jeremy Grip reported that the Energy Committee had met to discuss the Municipal Energy Resilience Grant. That grant, with funding coming through Buildings and General Services and technical assistance provided by each RPC will grant \$25M to towns statewide to provide energy efficiency improvements to town buildings of up to \$500,000 per town. It also contains \$4,000 per town for energy planning and outreach.

Jeremy also noted new incentives for changing out old inefficient wood stoves for new ones. Lastly, the Energy Committee also expects to review Whiting's Enhanced Energy plan in January.

Transportation Advisory Committee: Shannon noted that the TAC had met and worked through a refresher on its roles and responsibilities and was considering amending its bylaws. It also discussed the Vergennes area PELS study and discussed the FY 23 TAC grants.

Housing: Tim Davis reported that the Housing Committee conducted its initial meeting and reviewed the state of housing in the Region with Elise Shanbacker from the Addison County Community Trust. It also reviewed its goals and implementation actions and intends to pursue lots of the implementation actions.

V. Joint Partner's Report/Delegate Staff Recognition:

Adam noted that the Addison County Economic Development Corporation was completing developing its priority project list and that he would be serving as one of the reviewers for the program.

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VI. Old Business:

Maple Broadband Addison County CUD Update: Steve Huffaker, the Chair of Maple Broadband, gave a brief summary of Maple Broadband's activities. Steve noted that Maple Broadband began construction of its network in September 2022 and hopes to hook up customers in the beginning of January. Steve noted Maple Broadband was now planning its Phase II buildout and really ramping up its marketing for the area covered, and to be covered, by its phase I building program.

Hugh McLaughlin also noted that the VCBB had recently amended its rules governing where Maple Broadband could use grant money to build. The change allows maple Broadband to go anywhere not already served by fiber, where previously it was more constrained by Go Net Speed's claims to be building in a lot of places soon. Since that constraint has been lifted, Maple Broadband will be going back and picking up a lot of places it had initially left unbuild in Phase 1A of its construction.

Audit Update: Adam noted that the commission had hired Veroff and Austin to conduct its audit for fiscal year 2022. That work is not quite completed. Adam expects to present a draft audit to the commission for its approval in January.

Other: None.

VIII. New Business:

Amend bylaws to provide for shared municipal services: Stephen brought the proposed shared services amendment up for a vote. **Cheryl Brinkman moved to adopt the proposed bylaw changes allowing ACRPC to provide shared services. Jeff Glassberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Vote on ACRPC Annual Dues for FY2023: Adam presented the Commission dues structure to the commission and noted that the Executive Board was recommending that the Commission adopt a 3 cent per capita increase to help address inflation. Tim Bouton moved that the commission adopt a 6 cent per capita increase noting inflation was much higher than the proposal covered and that ACRPC's budget had increased dramatically and the municipal share of the budget should keep pace. The motion failed to garner a second.

Cheryl Brinkman then moved that the Commission adopt a 3 cent per capita increase to the dues as presented by the Executive Board. Gioia Kuss seconded the motion,

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which appeared to pass by voice, but because of the remote nature of the meeting, Stephen asked Adam to conduct a Roll Call vote. The motion passed 15-1 as follows:

Andrew Manning	Y
Stan Grzyb	Y
Arabella Holzaphel	Y
Tim Davis	Y
Jim Pulver	Y
Barbara Greenewalt	Y
Hugh McLaughlin	Y
Stephen Pilcher	
Debra Sprague	Y
Tim Bouton	N
Joseph Andriano	Y
Jeremy Grip	Y
Rich Warren	Y
Shannon Haggett	Y
Cheryl Brinkman	Y
Jeff Glassberg	Y
Gioia Kuss	Y

Other: Joseph Andriano, the delegate from Orwell brought the sale of Camp Sunrise, a 146 acre boy scout camp to the Commission's attention. He noted that many in town wanted ANR to purchase the property as a park to keep access to the lake open. Joseph noted he believed the lake was a regional asset and was asking for help raising awareness about the pending sale.

- IX. Member's Concerns/Information:** The New Vergennes Energy Committee will be holding a meeting tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Bixby Library in Vergennes. They will discuss the new Vermont Energy Standard and about funding four new electric chargers in the City of Vergennes.

Stephen Pilcher announced that Monkton had successfully received a new village center designation from the State of Vermont.

- X. Adjournment:** There being no further business, **Shannon Haggett moved to adjourn, which all supported. The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:43p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee
Director

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