

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, September 11, 2024

ACRPC held its September meeting at its office at 14 Seminary St. Middlebury and via ZOOM with the Chair, Joseph Andriano of Orwell, presiding.

ROLL CALL:

<i>Addison:</i>		<i>New Haven:</i>	Harvey Smith
<i>Bridport:</i>	Andrew Manning	<i>Orwell:</i>	Joseph Andriano
<i>Bristol:</i>	Ron Dendas Peter Grant	<i>Panton:</i>	Jamie Dayton
<i>Cornwall:</i>	Anna Burns Stan Grzyb	<i>Ripton:</i>	Jeremy Grip
<i>Ferrisburgh:</i>	Tim Davis Steve Huffaker	<i>Salisbury:</i>	
<i>Goshen:</i>		<i>Shoreham:</i>	Nick Causton
<i>Leicester:</i>		<i>Starksboro:</i>	Tom Perry Herb Olson
<i>Lincoln:</i>		<i>Vergennes:</i>	Shannon Haggett Cheryl Brinkman
<i>Middlebury:</i>	Hugh McLaughlin Ross Conrad Karina Toy	<i>Waltham:</i>	
<i>Monkton:</i>	Debra Sprague	<i>Weybridge:</i>	
		<i>Whiting:</i>	Jennifer Erwin

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

<i>Otter Creek Audubon Society:</i>	Ron Payne
<i>Otter Creek Natural Resources:</i>	
<i>Addison County Farm Bureau:</i>	
<i>Addison County Economic Development Corp:</i>	
<i>Addison County Chamber of Commerce:</i>	
<i>HOPE:</i>	Jean Montross

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Joseph Andriano
Vice-Chair: Arabella Holzapfel
Secretary: Shannon Haggett
Treasurer: Cheryl Brinkman
At Large: Jamie Dayton
Jeremy Grip
Tim Davis

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: Leander Ruhl

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7:00 p.m. Presentation: Joe called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He introduced himself as ACRPC's Chair, and welcomed Commission members and the Commission's guests. He introduced Mike Winslow, ACRPC's Assistant Director and Transportation Planner. ACRPC's current Transportation Plan and a proposed update to its Transportation Plan can be found on ACRPC's website [here \(scroll down to see links to both the current and proposed version of the Transportation Section of the Plan\)](#). A video of the entire meeting can be found on ACRPC's youtube channel [here](#). Mike presented highlights of the proposed changes to the Transportation plan. The format largely remains the same. However, project goals and actions have shifted to reflect work completed and changes within the region since the last plan was completed in 2018. The Commission will keep working on its entire regional plan moving forward over the next year. Comments or questions on the transportation section of the plan can be made during that period and during the hearing process. Please direct any comments to Mike Winslow at mwinslow@acrpc.org.

After a short question and answer session, Joe thanked Mike and commenced the business meeting.

8:00 p.m. Business Meeting:

- I. Approval of the July 2024 meeting minutes:** Ross Conrad moved approval of the July minutes. Cheryl Brinkman seconded the motion. The minutes passed by a voice vote/show of hands. Stan Grzyb, Harvey Smith, Nick Causton, Karina Toy, Andrew Manning and Jean Montross abstained from the vote.
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** The Executive Board's July and August meeting minutes were included in the package for the members' information. No members asked any questions regarding the Executive Board meeting. Joe continued the meeting.
- III. Treasurer's Report:** Adam presented the Treasurer's Report for the evening. Adam noted that cash flow remains strong and that cash on hand and receivables are also strong. Adam highlighted that the draft Statement of Financial Activities for Fiscal Year 24 year end (June 30th, 2024) shows about an \$88,000 surplus. Adam noted the audit will change that result a little, but overall he expects ACRPC will retain a healthy surplus for FY2024. **Shannon Haggett moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Ross Conrad seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented by voice vote/show of hands.**
- IV. Committee Reports:**
Act 250/Section 248: No meeting.

Energy Committee: Cheryl Brinkman reported that the Energy Committee had met. At the meeting it discussed the **Energy Fair it is holding Saturday, September 21st**

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from 10:00 - 3:00 on City Park in Vergennes. Please show up! It also worked on the Enhanced Energy Section of the Regional Plan. Lastly, it discussed progress on the MERP program and other updates.

Local Government: No meeting.

Natural Resources: No meeting.

TAC: Hugh McLaughlin noted that the TAC had reviewed applications for TAC grants. He also noted that at the September meeting it will receive reports from the communities that received TAC grants last year.

Housing: Tim Davis noted that the Housing Committee had met and discussed the Future Land Use maps that the RPCs will be creating and municipal roles in that process.

Economic Development Committee: No meeting.

- V. Joint Partner's Report/Delegate Staff Recognition:** Adam recognized new Delegate Karina Toy of Middlebury and asked her to introduce herself. Adam also announced that ACRPC's new Eco Americorps member, Leander Ruhl, will be starting next week. Lastly, Adam noted that Maddison Shropshire, ACRPC's current Energy planner, will be leaving at the end of the month to pursue some recreational interests. Adam thanked Maddi for the great work she has done on ACRPC's behalf.

VI. Old Business:

Maple Broadband Update: Steve Huffaker, the Chair of Maple Broadband, reported that Maple Broadband is in the process of completing its fiber construction for the year with the ARPA funding it had secured. Its last build in areas of Leicester should be active in October. It will continue to build its business operations and connect new customers. Its subscribers continue to grow. It will also focus its efforts on applying for more federal money through the BEAD grant to complete its buildout to unserved and underserved addresses in the Addison Region. Maple Broadband fully expects that if it and its business partner Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom are successful in securing the BEAD grant, that it will achieve its mandate and offer service to every unserved/underserved address in the Addison Region. It will also offer competitive services in many other portions of the region.

Discussion of Committee Assignments: Joe noted that at its meeting in August the Executive Board and he as the Chair had completed assigning people to committees.

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The Committee assignments as created by the Chair and the Board are included in your package. Joe thanked those delegates and alternates that responded. He noted the Executive Board tried to give everyone either their first or second choice. He also encouraged delegates and alternates that had not made a request for a committee assignment to approach the Executive Board with a committee request. It is not too late for them to grant them. Lastly, Joe noted that while reviewing the bylaws concerning committee assignments he noted a potential conflict between the Chair and the Executive Board regarding appointment power. The Executive Board will look at that issue with the bylaws and any other questions or concerns people may have regarding the bylaws soon and will bring back recommendations for the full commission to consider.

Herb Olson asked how ACRPC would be using its committees to address the new housing bill and Act 250 mapping study. Adam noted that he expected the Housing Committee will work on the details of the bill, including helping to create the new Land Use maps and noted that the next item on the agenda was a discussion of the new Housing bill.

Act 250 Housing Exemption Map and implementing H. 687 moving forward: Adam noted that during the last legislative session, the legislature passed legislation H.687 that will have significant impacts on land use planning moving forward. The first impact of the legislation is that it created Act 250 exemptions for certain housing type near villages and downtowns. Adam showed the commission the map [here](#) of the places where certain numbers of housing units would be exempt from Act 250 on an interim basis to promote housing development.

Adam then moved the discussion from that map to the mapping that ACRPC will be doing, in coordination with its municipalities, to create future land use maps for the region and for approval of the newly created Land Use Board to depict not only village and downtown areas for new growth, but also creating new wildlife protection areas under rules yet to be created that will be subject to additional Act 250 jurisdiction.

Herb noted he was glad the Housing Committee would be reviewing this work at the regional level. He also noted that the Land Use Board's working group needed someone looking out for the interests of rural communities so they are not unreasonably impacted by this legislation.

Other: None.

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VII. New Business:

Other: None.

Member's Concerns/Chair Comments:

Adjournment: There being no further business, **Joe adjourned the Commission by unanimous consent at 8:32 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Adam Lougee, Director

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