

Meeting Minutes
Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Wednesday, April 8, 2026

ACRPC held its February meeting at its office at 14 Seminary St. Middlebury and via TEAMS with the Chair, Shannon Haggett presiding.

ROLL CALL:

Addison:		Monkton:	Debra Sprague
Bridport:	Edward Payne		Steve Pilcher
		New Haven:	Harvey Smith
Bristol:	Ron Dendas	Orwell:	
Cornwall:	Anna Burns	Panton:	James Dayton
	Stan Grzyb	Ripton:	Jeremy Grip
Ferrisburgh:	Tim Davis	Salisbury:	
Goshen:		Shoreham:	Nick Causton
Leicester:	Diane Benware	Starksboro:	Tom Perry
Lincoln:	Steve Revell	Vergennes:	Shannon Haggett
Middlebury:	Melanie Sands		Cheryl Brinkman
	Hugh McLaughlin	Waltham:	
	Phil Pedlikin	Weybridge:	
		Whiting:	

CITIZEN INTEREST REPRESENTATIVES:

Otter Creek Audubon Society:
 Otter Creek Natural Resources:
 AC Farm Bureau:
 AC Economic Dev Corp:
 AC Chamber of Commerce:
 HOPE:

ACRPC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Shannon Haggett
 Vice-Chair: Joe Andriano
 Secretary: Cheryl Brinkman
 Treasurer: Tim Davis
 At Large: Arabella Holzapfel
 Stephen Pilcher
 Harvey Smith

STAFF

Executive Director: Adam Lougee
 Transportation Planner/Asst. Dir.: Mike Winslow
 Director of Operations: Rebecca Elder
 Finance Admin Assistant: Kerry Dashnaw
 Community Planners:
 Katie Raycroft-Meyer & Danelle Birong
 Emergency Mgmt Planner: Andrew L'Roe
 Energy Planner: Jolyon Larson
 GIS Data Manager/Natural Resources Planner:
 Hannah Andrew

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing: Shannon Haggett, the Chair of the Commission, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. by welcoming the Commission members, staff and guests present. He noted the meeting is being recorded and is available on ACRPC’s You Tube Channel <http://www.youtube.com/@AddisonCountyRPC> .

Shannon opened the public hearing on the Draft of the regional plan. Adam noted that we are happy to take comments. He asked all to make thoughtful and concise comments focused on the regional plan. He reiterated the timeline noting that he hopes to have all comments in by April 20th so we can make amendments and get the final draft of the plan out for a hearing in June. He hopes not to have substantive comments at that time and to take the plan to the Full Commission for a vote in July.

Mark Boivin from Addison spoke first. He noted that his property is listed as conservation, but that he has not conserved his property and that he still pays taxes on it at its highest and best use and that this designation is an arbitrary and capricious taking of his rights.

Alice White from Middlebury spoke next. She noted she had some administrative editorial suggestions that she would provide for staff. She noted that her main concern involved what she saw as a contradiction in the Energy section of the Plan. She noted the plan states it intends to move away from fossil fuel use, but that it still allowed the use of the Addison Natural Gas pipeline. While the plan states it is encouraging the use of renewable natural gas, she does not believe that much of the gas supplied to the Region is from renewable sources.

No other people came forward to discuss the Regional Plan. Shannon decided to leave the hearing open, but to move on to other business while waiting for additional substantive comments on the draft Regional Plan.

Business Meeting:

- I. Approval of the March 11, 2026 meeting minutes: Hugh McLaughlin moved approval of the minutes. Harvey Smith seconded the motion. The minutes passed with minor amendments by a voice vote/show of hands, with Stan Grzyb abstaining.**
- II. Executive Board Minutes:** Shannon noted that the Executive Board meeting minutes of March 25, 2026 are included in the package for your information. He offered the opportunity for the Commission to ask questions. Hearing none, he moved forward.
- III. Treasurer’s Report:** Deferred to Old Business.
- IV. Committee Reports:**

Act 250/Section 248: Adam noted the Committee did not meet.

Energy Committee: Cheryl Brinkman noted the committee met and discussed how it would address the comments made by the Land Use Review Board and the Public Service Department on the Energy Section of the Regional Plan.



Local Government: Shannon Haggett noted the Committee met to review the Ferrisburgh Town Plan in March and will meet on May 11th to review the New Haven Plan. The Committee will request approval of the Ferrisburgh Plan under New Business.

Natural Resources: No Meeting

Transportation Advisory Committee: Mike Winslow, ACRPC's Assistant Director, noted that the TAC met and received an update from Tri-Valley Transit (TVT) on its services for the region. Mike noted TVT was looking to contact the Town of Starksboro to discuss its bus stop in the village.

Housing: Tim Davis noted that the Committee did not meet.

Economic Development Committee: No meeting.

Nominating Committee: Cheryl noted that the Committee, consisting of herself, Anna Burns, and Jennifer Erwin met several times over the last month. They were happy to put forth the following slate for the Executive Board for election at ACRPC's Annual meeting in May:

Shannon Haggett, Chair
Tim Davis, Treasurer
Arabella Holzapfel
Harvey Smith
Steve Pilcher
Anna Burns
Melanie Sands

Shannon thanked the nominating committee for their proposed slate. He asked them to try to work with the slate to identify a Vice Chair and secretary before the Annual Meeting. He also noted that the Commission takes nominations from the floor at both this meeting and the Annual meeting and asked the commission if they had any other nominations. Hearing none, he thanked the Nominating committee for their work and moved to the next agenda item.

V. Joint Partners Report/Delegate Staff Recognition: Adam thanked staff for all the work they had done on the Regional Plan.

VI. Old Business:

Maple Broadband Update: Shannon noted Maple Broadband has its full board meeting next Tuesday evening. It now has about 670 subscribers and continues to pursue BEAD funding to build out its network.

Shannon noted that he would close the public hearing at 7:46 with no additional comments on the Regional Plan.

Regional Plan Update: ACRPC will hold its second formal public hearing at the June Full Commission meeting, June 10th at 7:00 p.m. We hope public comment will be minimal at that time and that we will be able to ask the Full Commission to vote on the Regional Plan at its July 8th meeting. We will then submit the approved plan back to the LURB for its final approval on July 23rd.

Financial Update: Adam stated he did not have a new Treasurer’s Report to present but did have some new information to provide in addition to the bank balances and Accounts Receivable reports. He noted we continue paying bills and payroll, prepare regular invoices, and are catching up significantly. The Accounts Receivable Report shows that the receivables now billed are current. All prior receivables have been paid. He also presented the balance sheet for FY2025, with the year ending June 30, 2025. He noted it is still a draft and that not all of it has been reconciled, but that it is complete enough to be shared with you. An audit will begin on that year shortly after tax day, April 15th. Several Commissioners expressed concern about the age of the report and requested more up to date numbers. Adam responded that he appreciated their concern and that we are working to prepare more recent numbers. Those numbers will be built on the financials he just presented. When these are correct, we can add to them and create new ones. He hopes to have a complete Treasurer’s Report soon.

Other: None.

VII. New Business:

Proposed vote to regionally approve the Ferrisburgh Town Plan and confirm the Town of Ferrisburgh’s planning process: Shannon noted that the Local Government Committee had held a public hearing jointly with the Town of Ferrisburgh Planning Commission. **It reviewed the Ferrisburgh Town Plan and the Town’s planning process and recommends that the Full Commission regionally approve the Town Plan and confirm its planning process. The Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.**

Vote to approve Title VI amendments proposed by the TAC: One of the actions that the TAC took at its last meeting was to review and approve for recommendation to the full Commission was the update of ACRPC’s Title 6 standards. Adam had included the full document in the package and a summary of changes, most of which were administrative. Tom Perry moved approval of the Amendments to the Title VI Policy. Ron Dendas seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.

Annual Mailing to Municipalities, appointments to RPC and TAC: Adam reminded the

Commission that ACRPC would be sending a package to all the municipalities in the region asking them for their appointments to ACRPC and the TAC for next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026. Adam thanked the Commissioners for their service in the current year and asked them to consider volunteering with their town for next year. And he also requested help to find replacements for any vacant positions.

Preliminary Budget Discussion FY 2027: Adam presented and walked through a very preliminary draft of the budget for next fiscal year, FY2027, which starts July 1, 2026. He noted he would ask for a vote in June and would have the budget balanced by that time.

Annual Meeting/Speaker/Bertha Hanson Award Nominee: Adam announced that our annual meeting in May will be at the Middlebury Inn. Our guest speaker will be Kay Firth-Butterfield, an AI expert, ethicist, and author from Orwell, Vermont. All Commissioners are welcomed and encouraged to join and bring a guest. It starts with an Open House at 5:00 p.m., followed by dinner, then our keynote speaker, and concluding with an abbreviated business meeting.

Other: None.

VII. Member's Concerns/Chair Comments: Ed Payne noted that he was concerned about the State taking over more of the permitting regime in Vermont, specifically habitat corridors, and that he felt it was unnecessarily depriving property owners of their rights.

Phil Pedlikin noted that he has been working to create new housing for people with disabilities and that he will bring more to the Commission in the future.

IX. Adjournment: There being no further business, **Shannon adjourned the Commission by unanimous consent at 8:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Lougee, Director