

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE
February 22, 2018
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Project Review Committee was held on Thursday, February 22, 2018 in the Conference Room of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

Committee Members Present:

Byron Atwood –	Town of Barre Town
Brian Fitzgerald –	Town of Duxbury, Chair
Laura Hill-Eubanks –	Town of Northfield

Committee Members Absent:

Janet Shatney –	Barre City
Bob Wernecke –	Town of Berlin
Gerry D'Amico –	Town of Roxbury, Alternate

Others Present:

Tom Hirschfeld –	Northern Power Systems
Jamie Stewart –	Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation
Eric Vorwald, AICP –	CVRPC Senior Planner

CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Mr. Fitzgerald called the regular meeting of the CVRPC Project Review Committee to order at 4:05pm.

CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Fitzgerald requested that items six (review of applications that have been received) and item seven (review of Substantial Regional Impact guidance) be switched in order to ensure adequate time was available to discuss and consider a recommendation regarding approval by the Board of Commissioners. The Committee agreed to the change.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public were present.

PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION ON NORTHERN POWER SYSTEMS BATTERY STORAGE FACILITY

Mr. Tom Hirschfeld, Northern Power Systems, attended the meeting to discuss a 45-day Advanced Notice that was submitted for consideration of a Certificate of Public Good. Mr. Hirschfeld provided an overview of the company including the work they do with renewable resources, including wind turbine development. Next, Mr. Hirschfeld provided the Committee with an overview of the battery storage facility that was being proposed adjacent to their headquarters in the Wilson Industrial Park in Barre Town.

The Committee and Mr. Hirschfeld discussed the specifics of the project including issues related to fire suppression, noise, and physical conditions of the site before and after construction. Additional questions and discussion occurred between the Committee and Mr. Hirschfeld. Mr. Vorwald noted that the discussion on this project was occurring to educate the Committee as these types of facilities may become more common as an option to store excess power from renewable energy developments. He also noted that no action was required. The Committee thanked Mr. Hirschfeld for attending.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Hill-Eubanks made a motion to approve the January 25, 2018 minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atwood. With no further discussion, the Committee voted 2 – 0 in favor of the motion to approve the January 25, 2018 minutes.

REVIEW OF SUBSTANTIAL REGIONAL IMPACT

The Committee continued its discussion of Substantial Regional Impact (SRI) guidelines with Mr. Vorwald providing an update to the changes that were made since the last meeting. He provided a revised draft of the SRI guidelines and the Committee began their review. The Committee discussed the specific changes and offered comments on several issues. After the discussion, Mr. Fitzgerald asked if there was consensus on forwarding the draft guidelines to the Board of Commissioners for consideration of approval. Ms. Hill-Eubanks made a motion to recommend that the Board of Commissioners approve the Substantial Regional Impact Guidelines as presented. Mr. Atwood seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the Committee voted 2 – 0 in favor of the motion.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS & PETITIONS THAT MAY QUALIFY FOR SUBSTANTIAL REGIONAL IMPACT & UPDATE ON PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS

Mr. Vorwald stated that a list of applications that had been submitted since the last meeting was included in the agenda packet. He provided an overview of the projects and highlighted several specific items. These included a major notice that received additional information from a 2015 Hearing Recess Order that involved a bike path in Montpelier. Mr. Vorwald noted that the Committee provided comments on the application when it was first received in 2015 and noted that there may be future actions needed but none were required this time.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, Mr. Fitzgerald called for a motion to adjourn which was offered by Mr. Atwood and seconded by Ms. Hill-Eubanks. The vote was 2 – 0 in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.