

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE
April 20, 2018
Meeting Notes**

A meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission’s Regional Plan Committee was held on Friday, April 20, 2018 in the Conference Room of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

Committee Members Present:

Laura Hill-Eubanks –	Town of Northfield
Ron Krauth –	Town of Middlesex
Janet Shatney –	Barre City
Scott Bascom –	Barre Town

Committee Members Absent:

Dan Hoxworth –	Capstone Community Action
Dara Torre –	Town of Moretown

Others Present:

Julie Potter –	Town of East Montpelier
Bonnie Waninger –	CVRPC Executive Director
Eric Vorwald, AICP –	CVRPC Senior Planner

CALL TO ORDER

At 1:06pm, without a quorum of the committee present, it was determined that the meeting could not be brought to order.

CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

No changes to the agenda were offered.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public were present.

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE 2016 CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLAN OR THE CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN TO ADDRESS CONSISTENCY WITH THE STANDARDS OF ACT 174

Mr. Vorwald provided the committee with an overview of the purpose for the meeting. He noted that, following the April Commission meeting, he contacted the Department of Public Service to discuss the proposed language prohibiting wind generation above 2,500 feet to ensure the Regional Energy Plan would not run afoul of the standards. During this discussion, it was noted that this prohibition would be inconsistent with the other aspects of the Regional Plan since development was permitted above 2,500 feet. Based on this, Mr. Vorwald outlined several options for moving forward which included amending the Regional Energy Plan or amending the Regional Plan. The Committee engaged in a robust discussion regarding possible changes to the text in order to address the inconsistencies as outlined. The Committee agreed that amending the Energy Plan would be easier than amending the Regional Plan and encouraged staff to move in that direction.

A second item that staff requested input from the Committee was related to the height limitation that was approved at the April Commission meeting. Staff noted that the Department provides specific definitions for the scale and height of wind generation and recommended that the Regional Energy Plan follow those definitions or provide specific language to define and justify an alternative height. Staff outlined language for the Committee to consider and discussion occurred regarding this specific aspect.

Following the discussion by the Committee, it was determined that the best approach to address the concerns regarding height would be to present the information to the Commission and include images of the various heights of recognizable structures within the community or the region to provide a comparison. Additionally, staff was asked to further research the heights of specific structures including wind turbines, communication towers, silos, or other facilities that may be impacted by a height limitation.

With no other information to discuss, the meeting concluded at 3:15pm.