

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MAY 31, 2018  
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Project Review Committee was held on Thursday, May 31, 2018 in the Conference Room of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

Committee Members Present:

Brian Fitzgerald –	Town of Duxbury, Chair
Gerry D'Amico –	Town of Roxbury, Alternate
Byron Atwood –	Town of Barre Town

Committee Members Absent:

Laura Hill-Eubanks –	Town of Northfield
Janet Shatney –	Barre City
Bob Wernecke –	Town of Berlin

Others Present:

Jamie Stewart –	Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation
George Klain –	Barre Town Planning Commission
Michael Curtis –	Washing County Mental Health
Dan Potter –	Department of Public Service
Troy McBride –	Norwich Solar
Bonnie Waninger –	CVRPC Executive Director
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 4:00pm. The meeting began with introductions from the Committee members and the public.

**CHANGES OR AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

No changes to the agenda were identified.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were offered.

**OVERVIEW OF PREFERRED SITING FOR SECTION 248 NET METERING PROJECTS**

Mr. Vorwald introduced the item on the agenda and noted that it was included for information only and that not actions or specific projects would be considered. He stated that over the past several months, the CVRPC has received multiple 45-day Advanced Notices through the Section 248 process for

renewable energy projects. In these Advanced Notices, the applicants have indicated that a request for preferred site designation will be sought from the host municipality and the Regional Planning Commission. Mr. Vorwald indicated that these requests were coming in due to requirements in the Public Utility Commission's net metering rules that require renewable energy projects over 150 kW be located on a preferred site as defined in the rules. Mr. Vorwald provided an overview of the definition of preferred site from the net metering rules and indicated that the projects requesting the letters were doing so under section 7 of the definition.

It was noted that the Regional Planning Commission does not currently have a policy on how to evaluate or designate a request for "preferred siting designation." The current policy of the Regional Planning Commission is to only comment on consistency with the regional plan for projects that meet the thresholds for Substantial Regional Impact, therefore there was no mechanism in place for the Project Review Committee or the Commission to comment on preferred sites. Through the discussion it was noted that the Board of Commissioners could act on the requests, but until a specific policy was established, the Project Review Committee would need to work within its existing framework for evaluating and commenting on projects.

Discussion also included the fact that the Regional Energy Plan notes the statewide preferred sites but does not include guidance on how to address requests for joint letters for preferred sites. Ms. Waninger noted that the discussion on this topic would occur at the Executive Committee and the Board of Commissioner's June meeting. Mr. McBride asked if the item could be included on the June agenda for consideration. It was noted that consultation with the Chair of the Commission would need to occur but the request would be considered.

Since no action was required, the Mr. Fitzgerald thanked the guests for attending.

### **DISCUSSION OF PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE ACT 250 SURVEY**

Mr. Vorwald provided the Committee with an overview of the Act 250 survey that was recently conducted including information on the Commission for Act 250 that was established by the legislature. He noted that the results and summary from the survey were preliminary and would also be provided to the Board of Commissioners. He stated that the results would help the Commission craft comments to be forwarded to the Commission on Act 250. Following this overview, Mr. Vorwald reviewed the preliminary results with the Committee. Several grammatical changes were noted and discussion occurred regarding the draft results. No action was required on this item.

### **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.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. D'Amico made a motion to approve the March 22, 2018 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atwood. With no further discussion, the Committee voted 2 – 0 in favor of the motion to approve the March 22, 2018 minutes.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Atwood extended his thanks to Mr. Fitzgerald for chairing the committee and managing committee business over the past year.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With business concluded, Mr. Fitzgerald called for a motion to adjourn which was offered by Mr. Atwood and seconded by Mr. D'Amico. The vote was 2 – 0 in favor of the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

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