

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
February 14, 2017**

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Commissioners:

X	Barre City	Janet Shatney	Called	Montpelier	Tina Ruth, Secretary
Called	Barre Town	Byron Atwood, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>		Mike Miller, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>		Mark Nicholson, Alt.	X	Moretown	Dara Torre
X	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	X	Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks
<input type="checkbox"/>		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	X	Orange	George Malek
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Dick Payne	X	Plainfield	David Strong, Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calais	Paul Rose	<input type="checkbox"/>		Robert Atchinson, Alt.
X		Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	X	Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
X	Duxbury	Brian Fitzgerald	X	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>		Alan Quackenbush, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Harrison Snapp, Alt.
X	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter, Vice Chair	X	Warren	Camilla Behn
X		Jack Pauly, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Gary Winders
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayston	Carol Chamberlin	X	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
X	Marshfield	Ivan Shadis	Called	Williamstown	Larry Hebert
X	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	X	Woodbury	Michael Gray
			X	Worcester	Bill Arrand

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Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Gail Aloisio

10 Guests: Bill Moore (Central VT Chamber of Commerce); Dr. Harry Chen (Vermont Dept. of
11 Health), Bram Towbin (Plainfield Selectboard), Anita Krauth

12

CALL TO ORDER

14 Vice-Chair J. Potter called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Quorum was present. The meeting
15 began with introductions.

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ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

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None.

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PUBLIC COMMENTS

21 I. Shadis reported the Senate Finance Committee expressed interest in RPC perspectives on Act
22 174.

JANUARY 10, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

24 S. Lotspeich moved to approve the January 10, 2017 minutes as presented; B. Wernecke
25 seconded. J. Ohlsson abstained as she was not in attendance. Motion carried.

26

STAFF REPORTS

28 B. Waninger reminded Commissioners about the energy survey sent each local board in all
29 CVRPC municipalities. Boards are asked to respond as individual boards and generating town-
30 wide consensus is not necessary for the purposes of the survey.

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2 M. Gray inquired how the survey would be useful in making town opinions honored by the
3 Public Service Board. B. Waninger responded that under Act 174 towns that chose to develop a
4 local energy plan with very clear language would be given substantial deference in the PSB
5 Certificate of Public Good process. CVRPC would like to be sure that the Regional Energy Plan
6 is reflective of municipal energy goals and objectives.
7

8 A discussion followed about the State of Vermont's goal to reach 90% renewable energy usage
9 by 2050 and whether the strategies that the state is going towards for how to reach that goal serve
10 central Vermont towns well. B. Waninger mentioned that the current RPC energy planning
11 process provides the region and towns a more substantial voice in guiding the methods used to
12 reach the goal or determining that the goal should be revised.
13

14 **HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE**

15 Commissioner Dr. Harry Chen of the Vermont Department of Health presented on Department
16 initiatives to influence health related behaviors and make healthy decisions the default, easy
17 decisions. Behaviors have the greatest influence over a person's likelihood to pass away early
18 and loose years of productive life. Socioeconomic factors and community design are areas
19 where public policy can have the greatest influence over health outcomes with the least resources
20 invested. Planning and land use policy affects the opportunities people have to make healthy
21 behavioral choices. Dr. Chen explained that the Health Department is promoting these concepts
22 with partners through the 3-4-50 Campaign and Health in All Policies Agency Task Force.
23

24 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

25 Pam DeAndrea was hired as the GIS Senior Planner. She begins work March 8th. Dan Currier
26 has transitioned to his new role as transportation Program Manager.
27

28 With the regional energy plan work, staff has engaged with the Regional Plan again. Staff is
29 reviewing elements of the plan completed to date and analyzing goals, strategies, and
30 implementation actions collectively. Commissioners should expect Plan Central Vermont
31 discussions to move forward in the next few months.
32

33 **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

34 B. Waninger reported on planning related bills that are forming: modifications to Act 250,
35 including Criteria 9L and forest related criteria, three housing bills, telecommunications bill
36 sunset, tax sale recoupment of brownfield costs, clean water financing, and stormwater permit
37 thresholds.
38

39 **COMMISSION BYLAW AMENDMENT**

40 B. Waninger discussed a proposed amendment to the Commission's bylaws recommended by the
41 Executive Committee. The amendment proposed would allow the Commission to borrow money
42 and incur indebtedness for the purposes of purchasing or leasing property for office space,
43 establishing and administering a revolving loan fund, or establishing a line of credit.
44

1 *B. Fitzgerald motioned to warn a vote for the March 124, 2017 Commission meeting; D. Torre*
2 *seconded.*

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4 Discussion followed regarding who would open and authorize the line of credit, and how
5 CVRPC would budget to strengthen its reserve fund. In response to a question, Waninger stated
6 that Vermont Statute specifically states municipalities are not responsible if the RPC defaults on
7 debt.

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9 *Motion carried.* J. Potter reviewed the requirements for an affirmative vote.

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11 **ACT 64 CLEAN WATER REPORT**

12 B. Waninger presented a proposal for an RPC role in Clean Water activities. She requested
13 Commissioner input. Commissioners held a straw poll indicating that there is support for the
14 proposed role of the RPCs. The role includes:

- 15
16
 - regional prioritization of basin plan projects,
 - 17 • regional pool of funds for non-capital activities,
 - 18 • use capital improvement plan approach (not competitive grants),
 - 19 • support partnerships, and
 - 20 • develop long-term framework for ensuring maintenance, operations and management.

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22 **ADJOURNMENT**

23 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 9:12 pm; J. Shatney seconded. Motion carried.*

24
25 Respectfully submitted,

26
27 Gail Aloisio, Assistant Planner