

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
November 14, 2017**

Commissioners:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City | Janet Shatney | <input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier | Kirby Keeton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barre Town | Byron Atwood | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mike Miller, Alt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mark Nicholson, Alt. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown | Dara Torre, Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berlin | Robert Wernecke | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield | Laura Hill-Eubanks, Vice-Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Karla Nuisl, Alt. | <input type="checkbox"/> Orange | Lee Cattaneo |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot | Amy Hornblas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plainfield | Bram Towbin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calais | John Brabant | <input type="checkbox"/> | Robert Atchinson, Alt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jan Ohlsson, Alt. | <input type="checkbox"/> Roxbury | Jerry D’Amico |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury | Brian Fitzgerald | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield | Don La Haye |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Alan Quackenbush, Alt. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Harrison Snapp, Alt. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier | Julie Potter, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Warren | Daniel Raddock |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Jack Pauly, Alt. | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington | Gary Winders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fayston | Carol Chamberlin | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury | Steve Lotspeich |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield | Ivan Shadis | <input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown | Larry Hebert |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex | Ron Krauth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury | Michael Gray, Treasurer |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester | Bill Arrand |

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Laura Ranker, and Eric Vorwald

Guests: Jon Moore (Green Mountain Transit), Peter Anthony

CALL TO ORDER

Chair J. Potter called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. The meeting began with introductions.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT NEXT GENERATION TRANSIT PLAN

J. Moore provided an overview of the Next Generation Transit Plan being developed by Green Mountain Transit. He discussed the project’s four major goals including convenience, connecting people to life activities, improving the region’s quality of life, and financial sustainability. He also provided an overview of three scenarios that were developed to evaluate the system including major expansions (20% increase in operating costs), moderate expansions (10% increase in operating costs), and cost neutral (no increase in operating costs). Moore provided a list of

1 recommendations for the various routes that impact Central Vermont. He concluded by noting that
2 additional outreach opportunities and that comments on the various scenarios would help
3 determine the best options for the community.
4

5 **STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

6 B. Waninger provided an overview of the request from Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) to
7 provide input on the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Commissioners broke into two groups to
8 identify state-level actions that are working well, actions that are needed, and who should be
9 involved to make these actions happen.
10

11 *What's Working*

- 12 • Providing funding/grants to promote mitigation actions and connect issues with solutions
13 (ex. HMGP, ERP)
- 14 • Responsive state staff
- 15 • Support for infrastructure improvements (ex. not replacing culverts with in-kind sizes)
- 16 • Outreach on available resources
- 17 • Training
- 18 • Communication before, during, and after events is responsive and timely (ex. VT-Alert, TV
19 alerts, computer, cell phone)
- 20 • Developing resiliency programs
- 21 • Providing information on existing natural resources (ex. river corridor mapping, floodplains,
22 significant areas)
- 23 • Enforcing state and federal regulations
- 24 • Pilot projects (ex. stormwater green infrastructure)
- 25 • Addressing erosion as a priority
- 26 • Policies (ex. riparian buffers)
- 27 • Incentives (ex. ERAF)

28 29 *What's Needed*

- 30 • Providing more federal and state funding to reduce town expenditure
- 31 • Outreach
- 32 • Technical support
- 33 • Legislative updates regarding dams
- 34 • Give towns an alternative to the MRGP (ex. in-kind or % town road budget payment)
- 35 • Advocate for and support long range appropriate repairs and upgrades with more funding
36 to implement them
- 37 • Buy-outs
- 38 • Update funding criteria
- 39 • Awareness of vulnerable populations

- 1 • Identify shelters and increase awareness about them
- 2 • Based shelter locations on community need and outfit them with adequate resources
- 3 • Stockpiling resources (food, water, fuel) in a safe & secure location
- 4 • Guidance and models for local use needs to be:
 - 5 – Well written
 - 6 – Easy to find
 - 7 – Easy to understand
 - 8 – Easy to use for informing public
- 9 • Incentives that help get volunteers or pay for emergency services; sustainable paid staff for
- 10 emergency services and first responders
- 11 • River corridor maps need:
 - 12 – better interpretation
 - 13 – greater flexibility
 - 14 – more clarity in mapping, permitting, and how river corridor planning process &
 - 15 implementation with regulations will work
 - 16 – to be more precise as they are causing frustration for in/out determinations

17
18 *Who Can Help:* Municipalities, local committees, RPC, National Guard, Red Cross

- 19
- 20 • Commissioners identified their top two priorities. Actions working: a) providing
- 21 information on existing natural resources (ex. river corridor mapping, floodplains, significant
- 22 areas), and b) connecting policies, actions, and funding to making state priorities happen.
- 23 Actions needed: a) more federal and state funding to communities for mitigation actions,
- 24 and b) legislative changes regarding dam removal. All responses will be reported to VEM.

25
26 **BEST PRACTICES FOR LOCAL ENERGY PLANNING**

27 E. Vorwald provided an overview of best practices included in a guide RPCs developed from energy
28 planning assistance to towns. This guide is a tool that can be used by municipalities as they pursue
29 local energy planning to meet the standards of Act 174. Vorwald highlighted sections of the
30 document and outlined how it could be used by municipalities. The guide is in draft form with a
31 final version being completed in the coming months. Vorwald noted CVRPC would be assisting
32 three new municipalities with local energy plan development. He requested interested
33 communities contact him.

34
35 **FY2018 WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

36 B. Waninger provided an overview of the Commission’s work plan and budget. She noted specific
37 budget highlights, including projects carried over from FY17, trends that affect future budgeting,
38 and the process for developing the FY19 budget and work plan. Work on the FY19 budget and work
39 plan begins in December. Commissioners will be asked for ideas and input in January or February.

1 Waninger noted that the budget and additional detail was included in the meeting packet. J. Potter
2 noted that any specific questions should be directed to B. Waninger.

3

4 **MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 10, 2017**

5 J. Potter noted that the attendance information would be updated. S. Lotspeich noted a spelling
6 error for correction on page 36, line 3: “bare” should read “bear”. *B. Fitzgerald moved to approve*
7 *the minutes as amended; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.*

8

9 **STAFF REPORTS**

10 E. Vorwald noted the December meeting would include discussion of an amendment to the 2016
11 Central Vermont Regional Plan’s energy element. This amendment incorporates the Regional
12 Energy Plan by reference to satisfy the requirements of Act 174. L. Ranker noted that the Orange
13 and Barre Town Local Hazard Mitigation Plans were sent to FEMA for final approval.

14

15 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

16 B. Waninger highlighted discussions regarding brownfields as a statewide preferred site for
17 renewable energy generation. VT DEC is developing guidance for the State’s certification that a site
18 is a brownfields. Brownfields are properties at which 1) development or redevelopment is
19 adversely affected by 2) known or suspected contamination. At minimum, solar developers will be
20 required to complete a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment to demonstrate contamination may
21 be an issue.

22

23 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

24 There were no questions on the report.

25

26 **ADJOURNMENT**

27 J. Potter announced that the next Commission meeting would be December 12, 2017.

28

29 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm; S. Lotspeich seconded. Motion carried.*

30

31 Respectfully submitted,

32 Eric Vorwald, AICP