

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 13, 2018**

Commissioners:

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City | Janet Shatney | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montpelier | Kirby Keeton |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlin | Robert Wernecke | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield | Laura Hill-Eubanks, Vice-Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Karla Nuissl, Alt. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange | Lee Cattaneo |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot | Amy Hornblas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plainfield | Bram Towbin |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calais | John Brabant | <input type="checkbox"/> | Robert Atchinson, Alt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Jan Ohlsson, Alt. | <input checked="" 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 | VACANT |
| <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, Pam DeAndrea, Clare Rock, and Eric Vorwald
Guests: Jamie Stewart (CVEDC), Padraic Monks (VT DEC Stormwater Program)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair J. Potter called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. The meeting began with introductions.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

B. Waninger requested Commissioners verify or update contact information and distributed a list.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

TOWN OF WAITSFIELD: TOWN PLAN APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION OF PLANNING PROCESS

J. Shatney reported that the Town Plan Review Committee held a public hearing earlier that day to accept comments on the Waitsfield Town Plan. Representatives from Waitsfield participated. The Committee noted the plan had strong support for maintaining the character of the downtown. Waitsfield did not request plan review against Act 174 guidelines for local energy planning although it plans to do so later. The Town Plan Review Committee recommended approval of Waitsfield’s Town Plan and confirmation of its planning process. S. Lotspeich asked if the plan addressed Act 171’s forest

1 integrity requirement. E. Vorwald responded that it had not; the plan was adopted prior to January 1,
2 2018 and was not required to address it.

3
4 *B. Wernecke moved to adopt the resolution indicating the Commission's approval of the Waitsfield Town*
5 *Plan and confirmation of the Town of Waitsfield Planning Process; D. LaHaye seconded. Motion carried.*
6

7 **ACHIEVING CLEAN WATER: STORMWATER PERMITS**

8 Padraic Monks with VT DEC's Stormwater Program discussed DEC's stormwater permits and provided a
9 preview of the Operational General Permit. As part of this permit, the "3-acre sites" permit may affect
10 municipal and school facilities that have not been permitted previously. Monks reviewed reasons for
11 the update and changes.

12
13 The 3-acre permit is a new retrofit permit for existing sites. These sites may either offset the impact of
14 the development with Best Management Practices used on site or pay an impact fee. Impact fee funds
15 can be used by developers of other sites that are able and willing to exceed stormwater requirements
16 for their developments. If $\frac{3}{4}$ of the site is treated, then the site would be neutral and no fees would be
17 applied. Amount reduced will be based on the BMP applied to the site, e.g., gravel wetland will treat
18 60% of phosphorus. Monks said the DEC will send a draft rule to interagency Committee on
19 Administrative Rules (ICAR) this spring. He noted that H.576 expands offsets and lowers permit
20 threshold for "new" and redevelopment from 1 acre to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

21
22 Commissioners recommended ANR reach out to private landowners about this permit. Landowners
23 may not know they will need a permit.

24 25 **REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN**

26 Vorwald reviewed changes to the plan, which had be highlighted in a memo and in the plan. Vorwald
27 proposed to add text "above elevations of 2,500 feet" for consistency for resources in the regional plan.
28 J. Brabant noted the "above 2500 feet" was not discussed by the energy committee. He said the
29 guidance allows for limiting the scale of a technology but not banning a technology. Brabant proposed
30 holding this change and having staff complete additional investigation into the issue.

31
32 Vorwald said the Commission must vote to advance a draft to public hearing by March 1. The public
33 hearing would be April. Waninger clarified that the vote to advance was project-related.

34
35 *B. Fitzgerald moved to advance the Regional Energy Plan to public hearing with changes to remove the*
36 *reference to the above 2,500 feet limitations throughout the document; J. Brabant seconded. Motion*
37 *carried.*

38 39 **2016 REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE**

40 E. Vorwald reviewed the energy element of the Regional Plan. For the Regional Energy Plan to receive
41 substantial deference, it needs to be incorporated into the Regional Plan. The energy element in the
42 Region Plan would be updated with the Regional Energy Plan added as an appendix.

1
2 A. Hornblas requested staff ask the Public Service Department whether a region can limit the height for
3 communications towers as well as wind towers.
4
5 *B. Fitzgerald moved to advance the Regional Plan energy element to public hearing; J. Brabant seconded.*
6 *Motion carried.*

7
8 C. Rock discussed Act 171, the new forest integrity requirement for local and regional plans. To amend
9 the 2016 Regional Plan, the Plan must also address forest integrity. For the 2016 Plan, the change was
10 addressed through the land use element and a new map depicting highest priority forest blocks (interior
11 and connectivity) and highest priority surface water and riparian areas.

12
13 *B. Towbin moved to advance the Regional Plan changes to address forest integrity to public hearing. D.*
14 *Torre seconded. Some discussion followed regarding the language of residential development causing*
15 *the fragmentation. Motion carried. A. Hornblas abstained.*

16
17 **PROJECT TOUR: TOWN WEB MAPS**

18 Tabled due to time constraints.

19
20 **NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

21 L. Hill-Eubanks reviewed the timeframe for nominations. Nominations will be finalized at April meeting
22 and voting at May meeting. She noted there were three Commissioners interested in serving on the
23 nominating committee.

24
25 *D. La Haye moved to open nominations for the Nominating Committee; B. Towbin seconded. Motion*
26 *carried.*

27
28 *D. La Haye nominated R. Krauth; R. Wernecke seconded the nomination.*

29
30 *R. Wernecke nominated Don La Haye; S. Lotspeich seconded the nomination.*

31
32 *A. Hornblas nominated B. Fitzgerald; J. Brabant seconded the nomination.*

33
34 Chair Potter asked three times whether there were additional nominations. There being none, Potter
35 closed nominations.

36
37 *J. Brabant moved to appoint Don La Haye, Ron Krauth, and Brian Fitzgerald to the Nominating*
38 *Committee; B. Arrand seconded. Motion carried.*

39
40 **MEETING MINUTES**

41 *B. Fitzgerald moved to approve the November 14, 2017 minutes; J. Shatney seconded. Motion carried.*
42

1 **REPORTS**

2 J. Potter asked if there were any questions. There were none.

3

4 **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

5 B. Waninger briefly highlighted legislation initially proposed to develop a Clean Water Authority. The
6 legislation has been modified to study the creation of such an authority, to create a committee to
7 recommend a long term funding method for water quality; and to have the Clean Water Board to advise
8 the Legislature. It also creates a water quality block grant program and encourages the creation of basin
9 coalitions.

10

11 She discussed the right to practice forestry bill, which does for forestry operations what the agricultural
12 sector already has.

13

14 She noted two bills would add a public safety element and a health element in town plans. She noted
15 VAPDA has been testifying to incorporate these changes into existing elements rather than create new
16 elements if the Legislature desires these changes.

17

18 **CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT**

19 J. Stewart highlighted legislation to create opportunity zones in communities. He noted these areas will
20 not need a new Act 250 permit.

21

22 **ADJOURNMENT**

23 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm; No need to second. Motion carried.*

24

25 Respectfully submitted,

26

27 Pam DeAndrea