

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 10, 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 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 Nuiszl, Alt.	<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Warren	Camilla Behn
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Rodney Graham
<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 and Eric Vorwald

Guests: Jamie Stewart (CVEDC) and Paula Emery

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

E. Vorwald requested an item be added to discuss comments provided from the Agency of Natural Resources on the Regional Plan and Regional Energy Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Energy Plan - J. Potter noted the purpose of the hearing was to receive public comments on the Regional Energy Plan.

1 *J. Shatney moved to open the hearing; B. Towbin seconded. Motion carried.*

2
3 E. Vorwald provided an overview. J. Potter asked for comments from the public. J. Stewart,
4 CVEDC, voiced concern over the height limitation on wind energy generation noting that
5 this may adversely impact farm operations. He suggested an increase to 116 feet.

6
7 *R. Wernecke moved to close the hearing; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried.*

8
9 Regional Plan - J. Potter noted the purpose of the hearing was to receive public comments on
10 the Regional Plan.

11
12 *B. Fitzgerald moved to open the hearing; D. La Haye seconded. Motioned carried.*

13
14 E. Vorwald provided an overview. He noted the hearing is the first of two required hearings
15 to update the regional plan. J. Potter asked for comments from the public. No comments
16 were voiced.

17
18 *L. Hill-Eubanks moved to close the hearing; J. Shatney seconded. Motion carried.*

19
20 **CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT**

21 J. Stewart provided an update on the opportunity zone legislation and provided a map of the
22 Barre City area. He also discussed the recent success of the job fair. He concluded by noting
23 the CVEDC is working with two major manufacturers in Northfield and Barre Town that may
24 provide between 300 and 350 high wage jobs for the region.

25
26 **REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN**

27 Follow-Up On Wind Energy Discussion - E. Vorwald explained that this item was a continuation
28 of discussions from the February Commission meeting on possible restrictions to wind
29 energy generation. He presented three possible options for consideration including: 1)
30 make no changes; 2) increase the maximum allowable height; or 3) increase the maximum
31 allowable height and set an maximum limit on development activity. Vorwald explained
32 how the recommendation of 160 feet height was determined.

33
34 *A. Hornblas moved to increase the maximum allowable height from 100 feet to 116' feet as*
35 *noted by J. Stewart under public comments; J. Brabant seconded. B. Fitzgerald requested a*
36 *friendly amendment to add the elevation limit of 2,500 feet on development activity*
37 *consistent with option three. A. Hornblas and J. Brabant accepted this friendly amendment.*

1 During the discussion, B. Wernecke suggested the elevation limit apply to a maximum
2 height for structures to 2,500 feet in elevation. S. Lotspeich noted this could be problematic
3 from an administration or enforcement perspective. Additional discussion on the elevation
4 limitation occurred. Fitzgerald withdrew his requested amendment.

5
6 *B. Fitzgerald moved to amend the original motion to increase the height of wind facilities to
7 a maximum hub height of 116 feet and to restrict development of wind energy above 2,500
8 feet in elevation; B. Atwood seconded.*

9
10 *B. Towbin moved to amend the amendment to clarify that the elevation be measured using
11 the generally accepted standard; B. Arrand seconded. The amendment by Towbin carried.*

12
13 *Motion by Fitzgerald to amend the original motion carried by majority vote.*

14
15 B. Waninger noted that restricting wind development above 2,500 feet in elevation may
16 have the effect of limiting other development above that elevation based on the Act 174
17 guidance. She expressed no opinion on the motions, and stated she wanted to insure
18 Commissioners understood the potential impact of the motion. Commissioners discussed
19 this issue.

20
21 J. Potter called for a vote on the amended motion - to increase the maximum hub height to
22 116 feet and restrict wind energy development above 2,500 feet in elevation. *The amended
23 motion carried by majority vote.*

24
25 E. Vorwald recommended tabling the consideration on accepting the Regional Energy Plan until
26 after comments from the Agency of Natural Resources were discussed. Commissioners agreed.

27 28 **DISCUSSION OF AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMENTS**

29 E. Vorwald provided an overview of comments received from the Agency with a
30 recommendation for addressing each comment. He recommended comments on the Regional
31 Plan related to forest integrity be addressed through Plan Central Vermont. The Commission
32 agreed with this approach. ANR provided three comments related to the energy plan.

- 33
34 1. Clarify the region's industrial-scale wind prohibition reasoning
35 2. Clarify woody biomass map constraint note.
36 3. Clarify the conflict resolution regarding the need for a municipal energy plan to meet
37 renewable energy generation targets to receive a determination of energy compliance.
38

1 Vorwald recommended the first comment not be addressed as other elements of the 2016
2 Regional Plan address it. He recommended the second comment be addressed by updating the
3 map note to match the notes on other maps. Commissioners agreed with these
4 recommendations.

5

6 Vorwald provided three options to address the third comment:

7

8 A. Do not clarify. Address during municipal reviews.

9 B. State targets *do not need to* be met for plans to be certified.

10 C. State targets *must* be met for plans to be certified. Include a table listing the
11 generation targets for each municipality.

12

13 He recommended option three to ensure equitability across the region. B. Towbin expressed
14 agreement with the concept but was uncomfortable requiring specific targets. He expressed
15 that it could cause undo expense or allocation of resources for the municipality.

16

17 *R. Wernecke moved to make no changes to the plan; B. Atwood seconded.* In discussion, K.
18 Keeton supported including the targets to ensure urban municipalities would not be unduly
19 burdened with the responsibility of providing renewable generation. *Motion carried by*
20 *majority vote.*

21

22 **REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN**

23 Acceptance of Complete Plan –

24 *B. Fitzgerald moved to accept the regional energy plan as complete with the changes approved*
25 *during the meeting; S. Lotspeich seconded. Motion carried with A. Hornblas and R. Graham*
26 *abstaining.*

27

28 **MUNICIPAL PLAN APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION OF PLANNING PROCESS**

29 J. Shatney provided the Town Plan Review Committee Report regarding regional approval of
30 the City of Montpelier’s Master Plan and confirmation of the City’s planning process. She noted
31 the Committee met, discussed the plan, and held a public hearing to solicit comments. She
32 highlighted aspects of the plan. She reported that the Committee recommended regional
33 approval of the plan and confirmation of the planning process. J. Potter noted a resolution was
34 included in the packet.

35

36 *C. Behn moved to authorize the Chair to sign the resolution indicating regional approval of the Master*
37 *Plan, Montpelier, VT and confirmation of the City of Montpelier’s planning process; D. La Haye seconded.*
38 *Motion carried.*

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

D. La Haye provided a report from the Nominating Committee. He presented the following slate of officers for consideration: J. Potter – Chair; L. Hill-Eubanks – Vice Chair; M. Gray – Treasurer; D. Torre – Secretary; and S. Lotspeich, B. Atwood, and J. Shatney – At-Large representatives. J. Potter asked for nominations from the floor. None were provided. Potter closed nominations. B. Waninger said that a ballot would be sent to Commissioners for voting in accordance with CVRPC’s bylaws. Results would be presented at the May Commission meeting.

CVRPC COMMITTEES

L. Hill-Eubanks provided an overview of the various committees that are part of the Commission. She indicated she would be soliciting participation from Commissioners. A list of CVRPC’s committees and their responsibilities was included in the packet for review.

MINUTES

B. Wernecke moved to approve the February 13, 2018 minutes; B. Atwood seconded. Motion carried with A. Hornblas, R. Graham, and C. Behn abstaining.

REPORTS

B. Waninger discussed the FY19 work plan. She noted a list of confirmed and potential projects for each municipality was included in the agenda. She stated that staff would appreciate feedback from Commissioners to help build the work plan. She also noted activities that the CVRPC will be engaging on regarding Emerald Ash Borer and responded to several questions. Finally, Waninger reminded Commissioners that the May meeting serves as the annual meeting. The Commission will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with a reception prior to the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

B. Wernecke moved to adjourn at 8:58 pm; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vorwald, AICP