

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Regional Plan Committee**  
**DRAFT Minutes**  
**July 16, 2018**

Present:

- Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair
- Julie Potter
- Ron Krauth
- Dara Torre, Vice Chair
- Kirby Keeton

Staff: Bonnie Waninger

Guests: John Brabant, Calais Commissioners

B. Waninger called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

None.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Elections**

*J. Potter nominated L. Hill-Eubanks as Chair; K. Keeton seconded. No additional nominations were made, and Waninger closed nominations. The Committee elected L. Hill-Eubanks as Chair.*

*J. Potter nominated D. Torre as Vice Chair; K. Keeton seconded. No additional nominations were made, and the Chair closed nominations. The Committee elected D. Torre as Vice Chair.*

**Preferred Site Designation**

Waninger provided a presentation to establish a shared understanding among Committee members.

She:

- discussed New England’s energy profile and Vermont’s approach to 90x50,
- reviewed the electric energy supply pipeline,
- discussed private and public activities for energy siting,
- reviewed underlying assumptions,
- discussed siting considerations and challenges, and
- reviewed the Committee’s role.

She asked the Committee to consider five questions:

- 1 • Where does the Commission reside on the spectrum of deferring decisions to municipalities and
- 2 establishing regional preferred locations?
- 3 • Does the scale of development (residential, commercial, utility) matter and, if so, how?
- 4 • Will CVRPC treat all technologies the same? If not, is the treatment based on impact?
- 5 • Will CVRPC consider cumulative impacts and, if so, how?
- 6 • To what extent should community and municipal (and developer?) engagement occur during
- 7 this process versus when a project is proposed?

8  
9 *Where does the Commission reside on the spectrum of deferring decisions to municipalities and*  
10 *establishing regional preferred locations?*

11 The Committee suggested the Commission would defer to municipal preferred siting decisions when:

- 12
- 13 • the municipality used a robust public engagement process when making preferred siting
- 14 decisions.
- 15 • the municipality had an approved [24 V.S.A. § 4350(b)(1)] and certified (Act 174) plan.
- 16 • the affected transmission and distribution utilities (Washington Electric Cooperative/Green
- 17 Mountain Power/VELCO) had been engaged in the decision process. Ex. Transmission is
- 18 adequate or energy storage is addressed.
- 19 • power users are located on the same site as power generator.

20  
21 *Does the scale of development (residential, commercial, utility) matter and, if so, how?*

22 The Committee agreed that scale mattered. The Committee discussed scale in relation to regional  
23 impact. It directed staff to research this issue and provide a de minimis-level recommendation at the  
24 next meeting.

25  
26 *Will CVRPC treat all technologies the same? If not, is the treatment based on impact?*

27 The Committee did not address this questions.

28  
29 *Will CVRPC consider cumulative impacts and, if so, how?*

30 The Committee recommended that CVRPC consider cumulative impacts.

31  
32 *To what extent should community and municipal (and developer?) engagement occur during this process*  
33 *versus when a project is proposed?*

34 The Committee recommended engagement occur during energy plan development and for proposed  
35 projects.

36  
37 **Meeting Minutes**

38 *J. Potter moved to approve the April 20, 2018 meeting minutes as presented; D. Torre seconded. Motion*  
39 *carried.*

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41

1 **Meetings**

2 The Committee did not set a regular meeting date. The next Committee meeting was scheduled for  
3 Wednesday, August 29 at 4pm.

4  
5 The Committee requested that staff:

- 6 • Develop documentation outlining components of a municipal process that might be required by  
7 CVRPC for preferred site designation deference.
- 8 • Develop documentation regarding when and how CVRPC would weigh in on preferred site  
9 designation.

10

11 The Committee requested staff contact Rick Weston, Director of Policy at the Regulatory Assistance  
12 Project (RAP). RAP is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to  
13 accelerating the transition to a clean, reliable, and efficient energy future. The Committee would  
14 appreciate a discussion with Weston on community planning opportunities and issues for energy and  
15 siting.

16

17 **Adjourn**

18 *J. Potter moved to adjourn at 6:00 pm; K. Keeton seconded. Motion carried.*

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