

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
December 10, 2019

Commissioners:

☒	Barre City	Janet Shatney	☒	Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary
☐		Heather Grandfield, Alt.	☐		Joyce Manchester, Alt
☒	Barre Town	Byron Atwood	☒	Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair
☐		Mark Nicholson, Alt.	☒	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
☐	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	☒	Plainfield	Bram Towbin
☐		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	☐		Paula Emery, Alt.
☒	Cabot	Amy Hornblas	☒	Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico
☒	Calais	John Brabant	☐	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
☐		Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	☐		Harrison Snapp, Alt.
☒	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	☐	Warren	Alison Duckworth
☒	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	☐		J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
☐		Jack Pauly, Alt.	☒	Washington	Peter Carbee
☐	Fayston	Carol Chamberlin	☒	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
☒	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	☒	Williamstown	Richard Turner
☒	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	☐	Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
☒	Montpelier	Marcella Dent	☒	Woodbury	Michael Gray, Treasurer
☐		Mike Miller, Alt.	☒	Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Grace Vinson, Zachary Maia, Nick Kramer, Clare Rock

Guests: George Clain, Barre Town Planning Commission

Call to Order

Chair Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business. The meeting began with introductions.

Adjustments to The Agenda

The agenda was readjusted to accommodate speakers.

Public Comments

No public comments were made.

Energy Planning Best Practices & Data

Chair Hill-Eubanks introduced our speakers, Zachary Maia and Nick Kramer of CVRPC. They provided a detailed overview of the Enhanced Energy Planning process. A copy of the presentation is available on

1 website at - [http://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/19-12-10-CVRPC-Energy-](http://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/19-12-10-CVRPC-Energy-Planning-Best-Practices-and-248-Training.pdf)
2 [Planning-Best-Practices-and-248-Training.pdf](http://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/19-12-10-CVRPC-Energy-Planning-Best-Practices-and-248-Training.pdf).

3
4 CVRPC has worked with 11 municipalities over the last several years on enhanced energy planning.

5
6 A plan must include three major requirements: analysis and targets; pathways and implementation
7 actions; and mapping. Since 2015 CVRPC has put together data for communities to utilize in the
8 planning process for the analysis and targets requirements and Energy Action Network (Community
9 Energy Dashboard) and Efficiency Vermont also has updated data to enhance CVRPC's. It is important to
10 note the data provides estimates to inform the planning process. An overview of the data available on
11 the Community Energy Dashboard was provided.

12
13 When addressing pathways and implementation it was noted municipal capacity is important to
14 consider when choosing your pathways to ensure you have the people available to achieve the
15 pathways identified. Also noted was the importance of using clear policy statements in the plans.

16
17 Additional review was provided on preferred sites; which can provide incentives for development,
18 reduction in land use conflict, and open up development of 150-500 kW sites to help reach 2050 goals.

19
20 Energy plans must be consistent with the municipal plan; and effective energy plans should include
21 reasonable recommendations, be based on well-established and specific planning goals; and should
22 include land conservation measures and clearly stated policies.

23
24 Also provided was an overview of the Section 248 Process for obtaining certificates of public good. It
25 was noted that small net metering applications (less than 15kW) do not need to go through the full
26 process (just the 45-day notice prior to filing). For larger projects it was suggested that municipalities
27 review and act in the 45-day notice timeframe to identify support, concerns, and potential mitigation in
28 order to save time, money and capacity once the application has been filed.

29
30 Zach noted the take away from the presentation should be orderly development of the region and land
31 conservation measures. Regional impacts are the most important to address and to discuss how to
32 incorporate into your Enhanced Energy Plans; and with substantial deference, include strong policy
33 statements (shall, must).

34
35 During the Q/A, discussion ensued regarding substantial deference and whether the Department of
36 Public Service will side with a municipality as part of substantial deference or challenge the municipality;
37 would an enhanced energy plan open the door to for-profit developers. Also noted was a recent article
38 on VPR regarding the PUC's relationship with large utilities.

39
40 There was question if the Best Practices Guidance is available on our website, which Zach confirmed he
41 would check – a link to this guidance follows: <http://centralvtplanning.org/wp->

1 [content/uploads/2016/12/Municipal-Enhanced-Energy-Planning-in-Vermont-Best-Practices-and-](content/uploads/2016/12/Municipal-Enhanced-Energy-Planning-in-Vermont-Best-Practices-and-Resources-FINAL.pdf)
2 [Resources-FINAL.pdf](content/uploads/2016/12/Municipal-Enhanced-Energy-Planning-in-Vermont-Best-Practices-and-Resources-FINAL.pdf) .

3
4 In addition, there was discussion on the importance of incorporating language in the Municipal Plan that
5 recognizes the Energy Plan and vice versa, so that the two are linked together. Concern was also shared
6 regarding the apparent increase in wood heat opposition and a push for a transition to utilization of
7 wood pellets instead of log wood.

8
9 R. Krauth also shared data on his home system which includes a power wall from GMP and 23 solar
10 panels.

11 12 **Regional Plan Committee Rules of Procedure**

13 Potter inquired about the disconnect in terms of the Regional Plan Committee Rules of Procedure (ROP)
14 and the draft bylaws; and suggested that on bottom of page 2 that the language be change to “one”-
15 year term in order to match up with the draft bylaws amendment. D’Amico advised you would also
16 have to strike the following sentence; and Rock noted that the third sentence would also need to be
17 struck. Potter advised that due to the draft bylaws many committee ROP’s will have to be updated;
18 which is easier than amending bylaws.

19
20 *G. D’Amico moved to adopt the Rules of Procedure with the changes discussed; B. Towbin seconded.*
21 *Motion carried.*

22 23 **CVRPC Bylaw Amendment**

24 Hill-Eubanks introduced Julie Potter, who provided an overview of the bylaw update process; advising
25 the draft bylaws amendment in the packet is the same that was provided last month with no changes
26 made. She noted it cannot be amended tonight if it is to be adopted tonight. If it is amended tonight, it
27 will need to be put on a future agenda. It was also noted that 60% of member municipalities is required
28 to approve the bylaws changes (14 members).

29
30 G. D’Amico thanked Julie and the work group for their work amending the bylaws.

31
32 *P. Carbee moved to approve the proposed bylaws amendment as written, seconded by J. Shatney.*
33 *Motion carried.*

34 35 **Meeting Minutes**

36 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet.

37
38 *A. Hornblas moved to approve the November 12, 2019 minutes; S. Lotspeich seconded. Motion carried*
39 *with one abstention.*

40 41 **Reports**

1 Waninger shared that the Barre City Council endorsed the Greater Barre City Working Communities
2 Grant application that CVRPC has been facilitating. This is a partnership of approximately 20 agencies
3 and employers; focused on fostering a workforce development system that bridges gaps between
4 employees and employers, with a target population of single women led households living below the
5 poverty level.

6
7 Waninger also introduced Grace Vinson, CVRPC's new Planner. Her duties include emergency
8 management and special projects. The intent of the position is to be adaptable between programs.

9
10 C. Rock advised an evaluation for the presentation done this evening will be forwarded via email.

11
12 **Adjournment**

13 *D. Torre moved to adjourn at 7:59 pm; J. Potter seconded. Motion carried.*

14
15 Respectfully submitted,

16
17 Nancy Chartrand
18 Office Manager