

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission  
October 13, 2015  
Minutes

Present were:

Barre City: Janet Shatney

Plainfield: David Strong

Robert Atchinson-absent

Barre Town: Byron Atwood

Roxbury: Gerry D'Amico-absent

Mark Nicholson-absent

Waitsfield: Don La Haye

Harrison Snapp-absent

Berlin: Bob Wernecke

Warren: Camilla Behn

Cabot: Dick Payne

Washington: Gary Winders

Calais: Paul Rose

Waterbury: Steve Lotspeich

John Brabant-absent

Williamstown: Larry Hebert

Duxbury: Brian Fitzgerald

Woodbury:

East Montpelier: Julie Potter

Worcester: Bill Arrand

Jack Pauly

Fayston: Carol Chamberlin

Marshfield:

Middlesex: Ronald Krauth

Montpelier: Tina Ruth

Kim Cheney-absent

Moretown: Dara Torre

Northfield: Laura Hill-Eubanks

Orange: George Malek

Staff: B. Waninger, L. Emery, G. Aloisio, D. Currier, S. Gladczuk, M. Wolz of SerVermont.

Others: Sam Andersen, Central VT Economic Development Corporation; G. Burley, VT New Directions

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Public Comments: There were no adjustments to the agenda. Comment on the Health and Communities element was provided by G. Burley who noted that marijuana use is not discussed in the health section and that tobacco should include mention of E-cigarettes.

The minutes of the September 8, 2015 CVRPC meeting were accepted as written.

Staff Updates and Executive Director's Report: The written Executive Director's report is provided monthly to the Executive Committee and highlights issues that may have an impact on planning in the Region. The Public Service Board is holding a hearing on October 21 on Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan update which includes increased use of renewable energy and possibly updating the transportation profile. CVRPC's new Regional Planner, Eric Vorwald, begins work on November 2 and has experience in both local and regional planning and zoning.

Report from Central VT Economic Development Corporation: Sam Andersen announced their annual meeting scheduled for October 15 noting that the panelists will be the "Makers" of the Region. The presentation will be videotaped and put on CVEDC's website. S. Andersen provided an update on changes in business and employment in the Region, and thanked B. Waninger for her participation in the CVEDC board meetings.

Public Hearing on Amendments to the 2008 Regional Plan: The hearing was convened at 7:20 p.m. Staff outlined what had been updated in the Land Use element and the Future Land Use map as a result of the discussion at the September 8 hearing. Language had been added to provide clarity on the use of the map. The legend now notes "Data should be

verified during permitting process per the provisions of the regulatory authority. This map is for general planning purposes only. This map may contain errors and omissions. See pages 2-19 and 2-31 of the Land Use Element for a complete explanation." There were no further comments or discussion and the hearing was adjourned.

It was moved and seconded that we approve the amendments to the Land Use Element and Future Land Use map and adopt the amended 2008 Regional Plan. R. Payne noted that the new language is much improved and represents what was originally intended. There being no further comments, the motion was approved with 19 yes and one no.

Health and Community Element for the 2018 Regional Plan: Work on this element began in 2014 with a working group of stakeholders who represented a variety of services from food access to health care and healthy design. Any typos and formatting issues can be provided to staff by email. Discussion on the policies included:

-- The Agency of Education just released a report on the results of the standardized testing for Vermont students and the data could be summarized in this element.

-- There is also a recent report on the high number of young Vermonters who are on Social Security Disability Insurance.

-- Mental health needs more discussion; there may be a shortage of beds and/or staffing. We should find out more information and see how the issue can be addressed.

-- Policies say we "support," but what is meant by "support"? How much can CVRPC do on so many policies? It was queried whether "support" is dependent on what the towns' needs are when they ask for help.

-- Be more specific on Goal 1, Policy 1, E "Enhance infrastructure supporting bicycling and walking."

-- Goal 2, Policy 8, B is much more proactive than A. is.

-- Wouldn't it be better to identify or share model ordinances to achieve the goal?

-- Be more specific about how we could help or what action would be helpful for achieving the goals.

It was moved and seconded to accept the Health and Communities Element of the 2016 Regional Plan contingent on suggested changes being made and that the Element will be reviewed again when the 2016 Regional Plan is reviewed as a full draft. The motion was approved unanimously.

Transportation Element for the 2016 Regional Plan: It was moved and seconded to accept the Transportation Element for the 2016 Regional Plan. Goal 2, policy 7 ("There should be no road openings for three years after a road is repaved/reconstructed.") should be deleted. We should not be dictating what can or cannot happen on a state or town road. It could say "should coordinate culvert and other road work with a schedule of reconstruction prior to repaving." It was questioned how one would handle a water line that needed to be done six months after the repaving and that was an unknown need previously? Three years seems arbitrary. Emphasis should be placed on planning ahead by scheduling and coordinating any road work.

Alternate language was suggested: "Evaluate sub-road infrastructure and replace as necessary prior to repaving or reconstructing a road." After further consideration, there was general consensus on this language.

Goal 2, policy 3, says Level of Service C will be the preferred condition; it should be LOS C or better.

It was asked how the transportation section will be integrated into the 2016 Regional Plan since the transportation element will no longer be a stand-alone plan. Will it be formatted to match the 2016 Regional Plan? It will be formatted to match the 2016 Regional Plan. The 2016 Plan is too large and staff will need to identify what will go into the appendices.

It sounds like there is a fair amount of reformatting to be done and so the Transportation Element is not yet the final package. Some Commissioners would prefer to have it reformatted before accepting it.

Page 6 of the Freight section says "Streamline oversize/overweight permitting process;" Vermont roads cannot handle supersize trucks and tandems; we are already having trouble with maintaining the roads. What is the significance of streamlining the overweight permitting process? Exemptions are already available. When it is a trailer passing through, what is the cost to our infrastructure of allowing overweight or oversized trucks on VT roads?

The Ridesharing section seems disjointed and it would be better to have the language more integrated into our document and be sure the information is current.

Since the Commission does not feel ready to accept the Transportation Element, it was moved and seconded to table to the next meeting the motion to accept the Element. The motion passed unanimously. Additional comments on the Element can be provided prior to the November 10 meeting. Focus should be on infrastructure more than on how many miles people choose to live from the grocery store.

Next CVRPC Meeting: The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Emery