

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
APRIL 12, 2016
MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce (Lower Level), 33 Stewart Road, Berlin, Vermont 05602.

Commission Members Present:

Janet Shatney – Barre City
Byron Atwood, Chair – Barre Town
Bob Wernecke – Berlin
Paul Rose – Calais
Alan Quackenbush – Duxbury
Julie Potter, Vice-Chair – East Montpelier
Jack Pauly – East Montpelier (alternate)
Ron Krauth - Middlesex

Tina Ruth – Montpelier
Dara Torre – Moretown
Gerry D’Amico – Roxbury
Don La Haye – Waitsfield
Steve Lotspeich – Waterbury
Larry Hebert – Williamstown
Michael Gray – Woodbury
Bill Arrand – Worcester

Commission Members Absent:

Dick Payne – Cabot
Carol Chamberlin – Fayston
Marshfield – *No representative or alternate*
Laura Hill-Eubanks – Northfield

George Malek – Orange
David Strong – Plainfield
Camilla Behn – Warren
Gary Winders – Washington

Others Present:

Bonnie Waninger, Gail Aloisio, Marianne Wolz, Eric Vorwald

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Atwood at 7:00pm. The meeting began with introductions of those present.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

No adjustments to the agenda were recommended.

PUBLIC HEARING – MORETOWN TOWN PLAN APPROVAL

Ms. Shatney made a motion that was seconded by Mr. La Haye to open the public hearing. This motion was approved by a vote of 16 – 0 with no additional discussion. Mr. Atwood asked if anyone was present to provide comments on the Moretown Town Plan. No comments were offered. Mr. Lotspeich made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Krauth to close the public hearing. This motion was approved by a vote of 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No members of the public were present for comments.

TOWN PLAN APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION - MORETOWN

Mr. Vorwald provided an overview of the Town of Moretown's Town Plan noting that it was approved by the Moretown Planning Commission and Selectboard and forwarded to the CVRPC for regional review and approval. He noted that the plan was reviewed by the Town Plan Review Committee who recommended that the plan and planning process be approved by the Commission by a vote of 4 -1.

Mr. Atwood asked Mr. Vorwald to clarify the dissenting vote by the Town Plan Review Committee. Mr. Vorwald stated that a member of the committee was not satisfied that Moretown's Town Plan was consistent with the Regional Plan since it did not include a specific map that is referenced in the Regional Plan. Mr. Vorwald also noted that upon review of past regional approvals, the Commission has accepted a variety of approaches related to the map in question. Following the discussion Ms. Ruth made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wernecke to approve the Town of Moretown's 2016 Town Plan and confirm their planning process. This motion was approved by a vote of 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.

MARCH 8, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Wernecke made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Ruth to approve the March 8, 2016 minutes of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission as presented. The motion was approved by a vote of 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.

STAFF REPORTS

In addition to the report included in the agenda, Ms. Aloisio stated that information on the brownfields program was available for the municipalities and requested that the municipal representatives take the information to their respective zoning administrators. Ms. Wolz reported on activities related to the LEAP Energy Fair that she participated in on April 9, 2016.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Waninger reported on progress with hiring a new finance officer noting that interviews were occurring this week with the intent to make an offer to the top candidate by the end of the month. Ms. Waninger also reported on action by the Executive Committee noting that the Emergency Management Planner would become a full-time position beginning July 1, 2016.

Next Ms. Waninger reported on legislation that is being discussed during the current session. Specifically noting that Senate Bill 230 related to energy and siting was being discussed by the House. Ms. Waninger stated that in its current form, the legislation would include certification by the Public Services Board regarding "substantial deference" in municipal and regional plans. After a brief discussion, Mr. Wernecke made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Rose to send a resolution to the House Energy Committee on behalf of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission expressing their disappointment with the lack of authority given to local municipalities regarding the siting of energy generation facilities and allow the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the Commission. Following significant discussion on this issue the motion was passed by a vote of 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.

Next Ms. Waninger reported on House Bill 789 which is known as the forest integrity bill and stated that she had been asked to testify before the senate committee discussing the proposed legislation the following day. Ms. Waninger gave an overview of the bill noting that the current draft would require municipalities to identify

blocks, corridors, or other resources that were state, regionally, or locally important in their town plans. Multiple members of the Commission expressed concerns over the proposed legislation noting that this could adversely impact municipal land use regulations and add an undue burden to the municipalities and their citizens.

CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT

It was noted that Ms. Anderson was not in attendance therefore no report was given.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Arrand reported that the Nominating Committee met and prepared a slate of nominations for the Executive Committee including officers and at-large members. The slate of nominees provided by the Nominating Committee included Mr. Atwood – Chair; Ms. Potter – Vice-Chair; Mr. Strong – Treasurer; Ms. Ruth – Secretary; Mr. La Haye – At-Large; Ms. Hill-Eubanks – At-Large; and Mr. Hebert – At-Large. Following the announcement of the Nominating Committee's slate, Mr. Atwood asked for any nominations from the floor. None were received. Ms. Waninger noted that she would mail out the nomination forms to the Commission members and would report on the results at the regular meeting in May.

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RULES AND PROCEDURES

Ms. Aloisio noted that the draft rules and procedures from the Brownfield's Advisory Committee were included with the agenda and were interim. She indicated that additional members were being proposed therefore the interim status would afford new members a chance to review the rules and procedures. She specifically noted which additional groups would be represented. Additionally, Ms. Aloisio stated that this committee would be advisory only with the Executive Committee authorizing the expenditure of funds and the full Commission having ultimate authority over the program.

Mr. Wernecke expressed concern with having a quorum for this committee being established at five people thus a voting majority of three people when the membership was thirteen representatives. It was noted that it may be difficult to convene a meeting on short notice therefore establishing a smaller quorum would allow the committee to take actions even if limited members could attend. Mr. Wernecke requested that the minutes from the meeting reflect specific information regarding the number of members in attendance, who they represented, and how they voted to ensure the Executive Committee had adequate information to make determinations related to the expenditure of funds.

Ms. Aloisio noted that as interim rules and procedures they were scheduled to expire in six months therefore the issue could be revisited after several meetings had occurred and more information related to attendance could be gathered. Mr. Wernecke made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Krauth to accept the rules and procedures on an interim basis with detailed information in the minutes regarding actions taken at the meeting including the number of members in attendance, who they represented, and how they voted. The motion was approved by a vote of 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.

CENTRAL VERMONT CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ms. Waninger noted that there was an indication that money would be available in the future from the Agency of Natural Resources to assist municipalities with the requirements of the Clean Water Act. As such, it was being recommended that the Commission establish a committee to guide the work plan of the region related

to programs and projects that would be impacted by the Clean Water Act. She also noted that updates to the Winooski River Basin Plan could impact the municipalities and this committee could help prioritize work on that effort. Additionally, Ms. Waninger asked for any volunteers from the Commission to participate on the committee. Mr. Gray and Mr. Krauth both indicated interest and agreed to volunteer. Mr. Wernecke made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Potter to establish the committee but requested additional detail regarding the authority of the committee. The motion was approved by a vote of 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.

REGIONAL PLAN

Ms. Aloisio introduced the housing element of the regional plan noting that part two was the primary focus tonight as part one had already been discussed and accepted by the Commission with specific revisions noted. She indicated that part two would focus on a new approach to the housing distribution plan which the Regional Plan Review Committee recommended be discontinued. Ms. Aloisio presented alternative options to the housing distribution plan noting that the proposed options would better suit the needs of the municipalities. These options included sub-regional consultations based on specific factors to be identified that would characterize the sub-regions such as commuting patterns, school districts, or watershed boundaries.

The Commission discussed the quality of the American Community Survey data included in this element noting that discrepancies were evident and confidence regarding the accuracy of the data was low. Ms. Aloisio and Ms. Wolz indicated specific issues and discussed an alternative approach to reporting the data that included showing individual margins of error for each municipality. Discussion related to specific expectations and outcomes from the consultations also occurred.

Following discussion of the alternative to the housing distribution plan it was noted that the Commission should take action to approve the housing element of the regional plan with the alternative approach to the housing distribution plan included. Mr. Hebert made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Wernecke to approve the housing element of the regional plan with the sub-regional consultations for housing included as an alternative to the housing distribution plan. The motion was approved by a vote of 14 – 1 (Mr. D'Amico) with no additional discussion. It should be noted that Mr. La Haye departed the meeting before the vote.

Finally, Mr. Vorwald provided an informational item to the Commission regarding the schedule for updating the regional plan. He noted that the Executive Committee supported re-adoption of the 2008 Central Vermont Regional Plan as Amended (thru October 13, 2015) to allow time for staff to complete other work tasks that would support remaining updates to Plan Central Vermont. No members of the Commission voiced objection to this proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to discuss a motion was made by Mr. Hebert and seconded by Mr. Rose to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm by a vote of 15 – 0 with no additional discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Vorwald, AICP