

**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 Member Attendance:**

Barre City – Janet Shatney	Montpelier – Tina Ruth
Barre Town – Byron Atwood, Chair	Kim Cheney – <i>absent</i>
Mark Nicholson – <i>absent</i>	Orange – George Malek – <i>absent</i>
Berlin – Bob Wernecke	Plainfield – David Strong – <i>absent</i>
Cabot – Dick Payne – <i>absent</i>	Robert Atchinson – <i>absent</i>
Calais – Paul Rose	Roxbury – Gerry D’Amico
John Brabant – <i>absent</i>	Waitsfield – Don La Haye
Duxbury – Brian Fitzgerald – <i>absent</i>	Harrison Snapp – <i>absent</i>
Alan Quackenbush	Warren – Camila Behn – <i>absent</i>
E. Montpelier – Julie Potter, Vice Chair	Washington – Gary Winders – <i>absent</i>
Jack Pauly	Waterbury – Steve Lotspeich
Fayston – Carol Chamberlin – <i>absent</i>	Williamstown – Larry Hebert
Marshfield – <i>No representative or alternate</i>	Woodbury – Michael Gray
Moretown – Dara Torre	Worcester – Bill Arrand
Middlesex – Ron Krauth	
Northfield – Laura Hill-Eubanks – <i>absent</i>	

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Gail Aloisio, Marianne Wolz, Eric Vorwald

Guests: None

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair B. Atwood called the meeting to order 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**

*J. Shatney moved to open the public hearing; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried 16 – 0 with no additional discussion. B. Atwood asked if anyone was present to provide comments on the Moretown Town Plan. No comments were offered. S. Lotspeich moved to close the public hearing; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.*

1 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

2  
3 No members of the public were present for comments.  
4

5 **TOWN PLAN APPROVAL AND CONFIRMATION - MORETOWN**

6  
7 E. Vorwald provided an overview of the Town of Moretown's Town Plan, noting it was approved by  
8 the Moretown Planning Commission and Selectboard and forwarded to the CVRPC for regional  
9 review and approval. He noted the Town Plan Review Committee recommended the plan be  
10 approved and the Town's planning process be confirmed by a vote of 4 -1.  
11

12 B. Atwood asked for clarification of the dissenting vote by the Town Plan Review Committee.  
13 Vorwald stated that a committee member was not satisfied that Moretown's Town Plan was  
14 consistent with the Regional Plan because it did not include a specific map referenced in the  
15 Regional Plan. Vorwald noted he reviewed past regional approvals, and the Commission has  
16 accepted a variety of approaches related to the map in question. *T. Ruth moved to approve the Town*  
17 *of Moretown's 2016 Town Plan and confirm their planning process; B. Wernecke seconded. Motion*  
18 *carried 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.*  
19

20 **MARCH 8, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

21  
22 *B. Wernecke moved to approve the March 8, 2016 minutes as presented; T. Ruth seconded. Motion*  
23 *carried 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.*  
24

25 **STAFF REPORTS**

26  
27 G. Aloisio stated that information on the brownfields program was available for municipalities, and  
28 requested that the municipal representatives take the information to their respective zoning  
29 administrators. M. Wolz reported on activities related to the LEAP Energy Fair on April 9, 2016.  
30

31 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

32  
33 B. Waninger reported on progress with hiring a new finance officer noting that interviews were  
34 occurring this week with the intent to make an offer to the top candidate by the end of the month.  
35 Waninger also reported on action by the Executive Committee to transition the Emergency  
36 Management Planner position to a full-time position beginning July 1, 2016.  
37

38 Waninger reported on legislation in progress. Senate Bill 230 related to energy and siting was being  
39 discussed by the House. Waninger stated that in its current form, the legislation would include  
40 certification by the Public Services Department regarding "substantial deference" in municipal and  
41 regional plans. *After a brief discussion, B. Wernecke moved CVRPC send a resolution to the House*  
42 *Energy Committee expressing disappointment with the lack of authority given to local municipalities*  
43 *regarding the siting of energy generation facilities and allow the Executive Director to sign on behalf*  
44 *of the Commission; P. Rose seconded. Following significant discussion, motion carried 16 – 0.*  
45

46 Waninger reported on House Bill 789, the forest integrity bill. She has been asked to testify before  
47 the Senate committee discussing the proposed legislation. Waninger provided an overview of the bill  
48 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 Commission members expressed concerns over the proposed legislation noting it could adversely impact municipal land use regulations and add an undue burden to the municipalities and their citizens.

## **CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT**

Sam Anderson was not in attendance; therefore no report was given.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

B. Arrand reported the Nominating Committee met and prepared a slate of nominations for the Executive Committee. The slate of nominees provided by the Nominating Committee included: B. Atwood – Chair; J. Potter – Vice-Chair; D. Strong – Treasurer; T. Ruth – Secretary; D. La Haye – At-Large; L. Hill-Eubanks – At-Large; and L. Hebert – At-Large. B. Atwood asked for any nominations from the floor. None were received. B. Waninger said voting forms would be mailed, and the Committee Chair would report results at the May meeting.

## **BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RULES AND PROCEDURES**

G. 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, G. 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.

B. 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. B. 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.

G. 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. *B. Wernecke moved 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; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.*

## **CENTRAL VERMONT CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

B. 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

1 this committee could help prioritize work on that effort. Additionally, Waninger asked for any  
2 volunteers from the Commission to participate on the committee. M. Gray and R. Krauth both  
3 indicated interest and agreed to volunteer. *B. Wernecke moved to establish the committee but*  
4 *requested additional detail regarding the authority of the committee; J. Potter seconded. Motion*  
5 *carried 16 – 0 with no additional discussion.*

## 6 7 **REGIONAL PLAN**

8  
9 G. Aloisio introduced the housing element of the regional plan, noting part two was the primary  
10 focus tonight as part one had already been discussed and accepted by the Commission with specific  
11 revisions noted. She indicated that part two would focus on a new approach to the housing  
12 distribution plan which the Regional Plan Review Committee recommended be discontinued.  
13 Aloisio presented alternative options to the housing distribution plan noting that the proposed options  
14 would better suit the needs of the municipalities. These options included sub-regional consultations  
15 based on specific factors to be identified that would characterize the sub-regions such as commuting  
16 patterns, school districts, or watershed boundaries.

17  
18 G. D'Amico stated that the Roxbury data appeared to be off significantly, and expressed concern  
19 about the quality of the data. Aloisio and M. Wolz indicated specific issues and discussed an  
20 alternative approach to reporting the data that included showing individual margins of error for each  
21 municipality. The Commission discussed the quality of the American Community Survey data  
22 included in this element and confidence regarding the accuracy of the data was low. Discussion  
23 related to specific expectations and outcomes from the consultations also occurred.

24  
25 Following discussion of the alternative to the housing distribution plan, it was noted that the  
26 Commission should take action to approve the housing element of the regional plan with the  
27 alternative approach to the housing distribution plan included. D. La Haye departed the meeting at 9  
28 pm. *L. Hebert moved to approve the housing element of the regional plan with the sub-regional*  
29 *consultations for housing included as an alternative to the housing distribution plan; B. Wernecke*  
30 *seconded. Motion carried 14 – 1.*

31  
32 Finally, E. Vorwald provided an informational item to the Commission regarding the schedule for  
33 updating the regional plan. He noted that the Executive Committee supported re-adoption of the  
34 2008 Central Vermont Regional Plan as Amended (thru October 13, 2015) to allow time for staff to  
35 complete other work tasks that would support remaining updates to Plan Central Vermont. No  
36 members of the Commission voiced objection to this proposal.

## 37 38 **ADJOURNMENT**

39  
40 *L. Hebert moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm; P. Rose seconded. Motion carried 15 – 0 with*  
41 *no additional discussion.*

42  
43 Respectfully submitted,

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45  
46 Eric Vorwald, AICP