Approved: <u>Date</u>

<u>.</u>	DRAFT MINUTES				
	Date January, 9, 2018				
	nmissioners:				
	Barre City Barre Town	Janet Shatney Byron Atwood	\boxtimes	Montpelier	Kirby Keeton Mike Miller, Alt.
	Berlin	Mark Nicholson, Alt. Robert Wernecke Karla Nuissl, Alt.		Moretown Northfield Orange	Dara Torre, Secretary Laura Hill-Eubanks, Vice Cha Lee Cattaneo
X X	Cabot Calais	Amy Hornblas John Brabant Jan Ohlsson, Alt.		Plainfield Roxbury	Bram Towbin Robert Atchinson, Alt. Gerry D'Amico
X	Duxbury	Brian Fitzgerald Alan Quackenbush, Alt.		Waitsfield	Don La Haye Harrison Snapp, Alt.
X	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter, Chair Jack Pauly, Alt.		Warren Washington	Daniel Raddock Gary Winders
	Fayston Marshfield Middlesex	Carol Chamberlin Ivan Shadis Ron Krauth		Waterbury Williamstown Woodbury	Steve Lotspeich VACANT Michael Gray, Treasurer
7				Worcester	Bill Arrand
Staff	f: Bonnie Waninge	er, Eric Vorwald, and Daniel	Currier		
Gue		g (East Montpelier); Monica	Przyper	hart (VT Fish & W	/ildlife)
Chai Com		the meeting to order at 7 ot present. The meeting be	-		ement that a quorum of the
ADJ I Non	USTMENTS TO TH e.	E AGENDA			
	LIC COMMENTS e.				
Cons	servation Design nica Przyperhart of	f VT Fish & Wildlife presente	ed to the	e Commission on (Conservation Design. Ms.
peop	Przyperhart introduced what Conservation Design is, what the maps represent and how they help people prioritize important parts of our landscape. She also talked about how forest fragmentation is				
•	impacting our forests. The Conservation Design mapping data includes two types of data. Landscape scale data (forest blocks) and hot spots specific/community scale data. She also talk about how at the				

- 1 State level the highest priority are the large forest blocks and that it's important to recognize and
- 2 prevent further fragmentation. Addition it's also important to consider the connections between block
- 3 and protecting those. The maps and data are available to everyone on BioFinder -
- 4 http://anr.vermont.gov/maps/biofinder/. Lastly Ms. Przyperhart spent a few minutes talking about our
- 5 Regional Plan and what we should consider updating in the future including these large forest blocks.
- 6 Q: Can you talk about habitat bio diversity?
- 7 A: Each species needs different types of habitats and some need more than others.
- 8 Q: Can you talk about the roles that both urban and rural communities have?
- 9 A: In urban centers the waterways are some of the most important resources and looking to keep
- 10 vegetation along the river edges is important. In rural areas we have a wider range of resource to
- 11 consider for protection.
- 12 Q: Where does farm land fall on these maps?
- 13 A: We are focuses on forest in this data and we don't include farm land.

14 15

16

17

18

19

Regional Energy Plan

Eric Vorwald presented on the draft Regional Energy Plan and the steps to advance the Plan to public hearing and adoption. Mr. Vorwald started by outlining the relationship between the Regional Plan and Regional Energy Plan. The Regional Energy Plan as it is written is a standalone plan that will need to be incorporating in the Region Plan. To do this staff are proposing to update the existing energy element and add a new appendix to the Regional Plan to hold the Regional Energy Plan.

20 21 22

23

Q: Why can't we just switch out the existing energy element with the Regional Energy Plan? A: We could do this but that element would stick out because it would not have the same format or tone as the rest of the Regional Plan.

242526

27

28

29

30

31

32

Mr. Vorwald next talked about the updates to the Regional Energy Plan and comments we received from the Public Service Department and other during its review. Almost all the comments were requesting more details and clarification in the Plan. Each comment was considered and more details where included. One of the more substantial comments was in reference to the Plans prohibition on industrial scale wind. To address this a new paragraph is being proposed for page 15 to help explain why. It was suggested and agreed upon by the Commissioner from Barre Town that all reference to Barre Town be removed from the new paragraph. Discussion ensued on why we included a prohibition on industrial scale wind in the Plan.

333435

36

37

38

Q: On page v of the Plan it talks about the replacement of approximately 75,000 vehicles from fossil fuel to alternative fuels. How is this possible when that number is larger than the existing number of vehicle that exist in our Region?

A: That number includes existing and future vehicles.

39 40

The commission suggested clarifying that paragraph and making clearer that the 75,000 vehicles is a future projection.

41 42 43

2016 Regional Plan Update

44 Eric Vorwald presented on the draft energy element and the steps to advance an update to the 2016 45 Regional Plan to public hearing and adoption. To incorporate the Regional Energy Plan into the 2016 Regional Plan staff will start by updating the existing energy element to match the data in the Regional Energy Plan and include references to Regional Energy Plan which will be added as an appendix to the 2016 Regional Plan.

The next step after the update to the element is complete is to move both the Regional Plan and Regional Energy Plan to public hearings. We are aiming for a March 1, 2018 start of the public hearing notice period and this includes the holding of two public hearings.

- Q: How will the Forest Integrity be included?
- A: That language is still being worked on and will need to be included in the Regional Plan update before we can move that plan to public hearing.

Discussion ensued about the Forest Integrity requirements and the public hearing on the Regional Plan. The Commissioners felt it was important to move both Plans along at the same time and request the Forest Integrity language be worked on and incorporated so that could happen.

Public Hearings

Julie Potter, Chair talk about an Executive Committee recommendation that the Town Plan Review Committee hold public hearings for town plan approvals outside of the regular Commission meeting. Currently these public hearings are all being held at the Commission meeting and the Executive Committee would prefer that they be held in the town that is being reviewed. This recommendation would change the order of the meetings but would not add a meeting because the hearing could be done at and before the recommendations are presented to the Commission.

Discussion ensued on the town and regional plan review and approval and the public hearings process. The Commission was in favor of this change and Eric will implement this recommendation right away.

NOVEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

No action was taken due to a lack of quorum.

REPORTS

Bonnie Waninger provided the following updates:

The Chamber of Commerce is holding its Legislative Reception if you're interested in attending please let the Chamber know.
 On Thursday January 12 from 5-7 pm at Montpelier City Hall GMT will present on the NextGen

Plan Capital District Service Scenarios.
The Legislature is looking to know which Towns are still interested in Local Energy Plans. If your Town is interested and would like to be added to the list please let Eric know.

ADJOURNMENT

43 Meeting adjourn at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Currier, Program Manager