

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Project Review Committee

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

Approved Minutes

July 26, 2018

Committee Members:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Byron Atwood, Barre Town Commissioner
<input type="checkbox"/>	John Brabant, Calais Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jerry D’Amico, Roxbury Commissioner (Alternate Seat)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield Commissioner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Janet Shatney, Barre City Commissioner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Wernecke, Berlin Commissioner

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Staff: Clare Rock

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Janet Shatney, Chair at 4:05 pm.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

L Hill-Eubanks moved to approve the June 21, 2018 minutes, seconded by B Atwood, all in favor. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS & PETITIONS THAT MAY QUALIFY FOR SUBSTANTIAL REGIONAL IMPACT & UPDATE ON PREVIOUS APPLICATIONS

Rock provided a brief overview of the Summary Sheet (see meeting packet) which included:

- An update to item #4: the permit was not issued as ANR was granted an extension due to floodway and river corridor impacts. L Hill-Eubanks asked if the application is still considered a Minor due to this, Rock would find out.
- An update to item #7: the developer (AEDG) has requested a Preferred Site Letter. This information was received after the packets were prepared. Rock also asked how the committee would like to handle these requests.
- The addition of #9: the previous solar developer Novus’ request for a Preferred Site Letter.

Discussion followed about how these requests were handled at the last meeting and the charge of the committee. Rock added that the Regional Plan Committee has met, and will meet again at the end of August to continue development of criteria for reviewing projects who request a Preferred Site Letter. Based upon staff understanding of the process, these request should continue to be reviewed by the committee until the Regional Plan Committee does develop the criteria. The earliest criteria would be finalized and adopted by the Board would be at the September 11, 2018 CVRPC Commission meeting. A majority of the Committee generally agreed they should press on with their charge of reviewing these

1 requests. L Hill-Eubanks expressed concern about the lack of criteria and how the requests would be
2 reviewed. Further discussion followed about the draft criteria and the use of the Regional Plan as
3 guidance. Rock read a couple of sections from the Regional Plan energy elements in which it states that
4 “It was also determined that preferred locations identified at the regional level would be consistent with
5 the areas identified by the state... This was done to allow the municipalities to decide if it was
6 appropriate to identify these areas locally, rather than have this information dictated by the region.”
7 (Energy page 3-3) and “...In this regard the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission Energy Plan
8 does not specify location beyond what was identified by the state as preferred locations for renewable
9 energy generation. This will provide opportunities for each municipality to identify locations that are
10 preferred or restricted based on local insights and interests.” (Energy page 3-7)

11
12 Based upon the recent request for preferred sites letters the committee would like to invite AEDG
13 (Worcester site) to the next meeting and also invite back Novus (Washington site). The committee
14 would like the developers to prepare a short presentation on the proposed project and share as much
15 project information as possible, including: site context, current site conditions (i.e. environmental
16 constraints – surface waters, wetlands, ag or hydric soils), and an explanation of the level of local
17 support and outreach undertaken (in addition to or beyond a copy of the Preferred Sites letter from the
18 selectboard and planning commission.) The committee also requested the developer be accompanied by
19 a local official (selectboard or planning commission member, who could also talk about the level of
20 community support.)

21
22 Rock will contact both developers and invite them to the next meeting on August 30, 2018.

23
24 The committee discussed the Grandview Solar and the Beckley Hill Solar projects. Rock added that past
25 projects of a similar nature did not constitute significant regional impact. Committee members
26 requested staff prefer a more detailed project summary for those projects which may be considered to
27 have significant regional impact, ahead of a committee meeting. They also requested a crosswalk like
28 documents which indicates aspects of the project and where it does or does not conform to the regional
29 plan.

30
31 *B Atwood moved to determine both solar projects are not considered to have significant regional impact*
32 *and they are also in conformance with the Regional Plan, seconded by J D’Amico, all in favor with L Hill-*
33 *Eubanks abstaining. Motion carried.*

34
35 **NEXT MEETING DATE**

36 The Regional Plan Committee will be meeting on August 29, so the Project Review Committee decided
37 to meet the following day (August 30) so any updates or progress of the Regional Plan Committee would
38 be shared with the Project Review Committee.

39
40 **ADJOURNMENT**

41 *B Atwood moved to adjourn at 5:09 pm, seconded by L Hill-Eubanks, all in favor. Motion carried.*