



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Central VT Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 963 Paine Turnpike North, Berlin

<u>Page</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
	7:00¹	Adjustments to the Agenda Public Comments
	7:05	State Economic Initiatives , Secretary <i>Michael Shirling</i> , <i>Agency of Commerce and Community Development</i> State economic development and workforce initiatives
2	8:05	Recommendations of the Commission on Act 250 (enclosed) Brief presentation on the recommendations with Commissioner discussion of changes CVRPC would support in the upcoming Legislative Session
	8:30	Board of Commissioner Survey Results Presentation of survey results and recommended changes
11	8:45	Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2018 (enclosed) ²
14	8:50	Reports (enclosed) Updates and questions on Staff and Committee Reports
	9:00	Adjournment

Next Meeting: February 12, 2019

¹ Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

² Anticipated action item.



STATE OF VERMONT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ACT 250:
THE NEXT 50 YEARS
PURSUANT TO 2017 ACTS AND RESOLVES NO. 47

DRAFT 1-2-19

Rep. Amy Sheldon, Chair
Sen. Chris Pearson, Vice Chair
Sen. Brian Campion
Rep. David Deen
Rep. Paul Lefebvre
Sen. Richard McCormack

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4. Recommended Legislation
5. Capability and Development Plan – 1973 Acts and Resolves No. 85, Secs. 6 and 7
6. The Act 250 criteria – 10 V.S.A. § 6086(a)
7. Minutes of Commission meetings
8. Cope and Associates, Legislative Commission on Act 250, Community Input Report (Oct. 17, 2018)
9. Cope and Associates, Act 250 Public Forum Commission Debriefs (various dates)
10. E. Czajkowski, Law Clerk, to A. Adler, Legislative Counsel, Exemptions to 10 V.S.A. Chapter 151 (Act 250), mem. (Nov. 15, 2018)
11. A. Adler, Legislative Counsel, to Commission on Act 250, Act 250: Supervisory Authority and Presumptions, mem. (Oct. 13, 2018)
12. A. Adler, Legislative Counsel, Presentation to Commission on Act 250 (Oct. 25, 2017)
13. A. Adler, Legislative Counsel, Vermont Permit Process Glossary (Dec. 27, 2016)
14. A. Adler, Legislative Counsel, Comparison Chart of Other States with Statewide or Regionwide Land Use Controls (Aug. 31, 2018)
15. Executive Branch Working Group Report (Oct. 20, 2017)
16. Natural Resources Board (NRB) Materials entitled “Act 47 Commission on Act 250: The Next 50 Years” (submitted Oct. 25, 2017)
17. Vermont Planners Association et al., Land Use Planning in Vermont: An Overview (Oct. 25, 2017)
18. D. Snelling, Chair, and M. Snyder, Commissioner, Report to the Act 47 Commission regarding Act 250 and Recreational Trail Regulation in Vermont (Oct. 1, 2018)

I. SUMMARY

A. Structure of report

This report is submitted by the Commission on Act 250: the Next 50 Years (the Commission), which was created by 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 47 (Act 47).¹ The report concerns the statutes and program originally established by 1970 Acts and Resolves No. 250, now known as “Act 250” and codified at 10 V.S.A. chapter 151.

The report includes the following sections: this summary; a description of the Commission’s charge; a description of the Commission’s activities, including its public engagement process; and four sections on the tasks assigned to it by Act 47. These four sections consist of: (1) tasks related to the original goals of Act 250 and overarching issues, (2) issues on the Act 250 criteria, (3) issues on jurisdiction, and (4) issues on process, interface with other permitting programs and appeals.

B. Summary of charge and process

Act 47 created a commission of six legislators to “review the vision for Act 250 adopted in the 1970s and its implementation with the objective of ensuring that, over the next 50 years, Act 250 supports Vermont’s economic, environmental, and land use planning goals.”² The Act also appointed advisors to provide assistance to the Commission, including representatives of State agencies, regional and municipal entities, and development and environmental interests. The list of appointed advisors is attached as Appendix 1.

As directed by Act 47, the Commission’s process included three phases that are described in Sections II and III of this report: a phase of gathering information on Act 250’s purpose, history, and implementation; a public engagement phase; and a phase of deliberation and report preparation.

Major themes that emerged from the public engagement process included the protection of Vermont’s ecosystems, supporting its pattern of compact centers surrounded by a rural landscape, and economic development that is consistent with these goals.

C. Conclusions and recommendations

As explained below, the Commission’s conclusions are as follows:

- Since Act 250 was enacted in 1970:
 - Vermont’s per capita income, adjusted for inflation, has nearly tripled.

¹2017 Acts and Resolves No. 47 (Act 47), Sec. 2(a).

²Act 47, Sec. 1(b).

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- Vermont's ranking among U.S. states for per capita annual income rose from 33 to 19.
- Vermont's population has grown by nearly half and its workforce by more than half.
- Vermont's unemployment rate has dropped from 8.7 percent in 1976 to 2.8 percent in August 2018.
- Vermont's rate of land development has substantially exceeded its rate of population growth, with land development growing at a rate of from 2.5 to six times its population growth since 1982.
- The number of impaired waters has significantly increased, from 126 in 2002 to 224 in 2018.
- Vermont also is experiencing significant creation of small parcels. From 2004 to 2016, 8,645 new parcels between zero and 10 acres in size were created in the State.
- The effects of climate change are manifesting in Vermont, with warmer winters, longer summers, and an increase in major flood events such as Tropical Storm Irene.

The Commission recommends:

- Amending Act 250 to explicitly reference the goals of the Capability and Development Plan and the goals of municipal and regional planning contained in 24 V.S.A. § 4302(c).
- Amending the Capability and Development Plan to include a climate change goal and a goal regarding the utilization of natural resources.
- Amending the statutes to require that the county-level Capability and Development Plan maps created in the 1970s be updated for reference in Act 250 review.
- Reactivating the Development Cabinet.
- Requiring that regional plans be reviewed for consistency with the statutory goals for municipal and regional planning and that, to be used in Act 250, the regional plans must be approved as consistent with those goals.
- Amending the statute to require that municipal plans be consistent with those same statutory goals and that, to be used in Act 250, the plans must obtain approval from the regional planning commission as consistent with those goals.
- Three criteria be amended to address climate change issues.

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- Updating Act 250's floodways criterion so that it applies to flood hazard areas and river corridors.
- Act 250's definitions of flood hazard area and river corridor be identical to those that govern the Agency of Natural Resource's (ANR) work and that the revised criterion specifically address fluvial erosion.
- Amending the energy conservation criterion to specifically reference energy efficiency.
- The standing committees of jurisdiction review the Act 250 criteria to determine if any can be updated to address climate change.
- Amending the transportation criterion to: (a) include review of the safety and congestion impacts to bicycle, pedestrian, and other transit infrastructure and (b) better define when it is appropriate for Act 250 to require projects to incorporate transportation demand strategies and require connectivity to transit services other than single-occupancy vehicles.
- Amending the public investment criterion, 9(K) to specifically refer to investments made through the State designation program, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, and similar programs that have been enacted since the criterion was written.
- Improving Act 250's plan conformance criterion by requiring that local plans must be consistent with the statutory goals for municipal and regional planning.
- Criteria be added to protect forest blocks and connecting habitat from fragmentation by adopting the changes contained in H.233 of 2017.
- That the applicant have the burden of proof on criterion 8(A).
- Establishing a multitiered approach toward Act 250 jurisdiction over commercial and industrial development, subdivisions, and housing units.
- Extending Act 250 jurisdiction to cover projects in interstate interchange areas.
- Clarifying the definition of "commercial purpose."
- The establishment of baselines for preexisting gravel pits and quarries.
- That the registered slate quarries be required to give notice of their operations to neighboring property owners.
- The registered slate quarries be added to the ANR natural resources atlas.

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- The exemption for slate quarries be repealed.
- The provision that allows quarries to be held in reserve without being considered abandoned be repealed.
- The repeal of the exemption for farming, logging, and forestry below 2,500 feet when these occur in areas that have been designated as critical resource areas.
- Consideration of a process under which release from jurisdiction could be obtained under specific circumstances.
- Further data collection, better permit tracking, addressing delayed applications, improving annual reports, and addressing district commission variances in order to address the difficulties of conducting an Act 250-related statistical analysis.
- The Natural Resources Board (NRB) or its successor work with the other State agencies to create a predictable timetable for the permitting process.
- Act 250 appeals be heard by an administrative board that also has the existing functions of the NRB and that the board also hear appeals of ANR permit decisions.

The Commission's recommended legislation is attached as Appendix 4.

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**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
December 11, 2018**

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heather Grandfield, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Vice-Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Nicholson, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	Bram Towbin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paula Emery, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/> Warren	Camilla Behn
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Julie Potter, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jack Pauly, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Karl Klein	<input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Melissa Seifert	<input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray, Treasurer
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Kirby Keeton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.		

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Clare Rock, Dan Currier

Guests: Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation

CALL TO ORDER

Chair J. Potter called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CENTRAL VERMONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT

Jamie Stewart of CVEDC noted that an Opportunity Zone meeting was recently held with a good turnout. The federal government has provided guidance regarding investments in economic opportunity development zones but not clarity for businesses who are receiving the investment. He also noted they are continuing to work with businesses in Wilson Industrial Park. Public Transportation is a high priority for this location and VTTrans and GMT have been contacted to work to establish van pools, car sharing,

1 etc. pending establishment of a bus line. CVEDC remains extremely busy with business and facility
2 expansions. The availability of a skilled workforce continues to be biggest concern raised by businesses.
3 A number of programs are being initiated to address this issue. A Workforce Summit was recently held.
4 Concerns about filling positions continue across the region. The granite industry is working to re-
5 establish its apprenticeship program.

6
7 In response to an inquiry, Stewart said workforce training is conducted largely on-the-job. CVEDC works
8 closely with CCV, VTC, and the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center. In addition to skills training,
9 CVEDC has been working with companies on leadership training. There is opportunity for young people
10 to advance in the workforce.

11
12 Stewart noted that the Central Vermont region is doing very well and is doing better than many other
13 regions in the State.

14 15 **CENTRAL VERMONT BROWNFIELDS PROGRAM “Blight to Might”**

16 Clare Rock to provided an overview of the Brownfields Program and revitalizing abandoned and
17 underutilized properties. She highlighted the Taylor Street Transit Center site and other properties that
18 participated in CVRPC’s Brownsfield program:

- 19 • Woodbury General Store - provides jobs, increases community pride, decreases flood damages.
- 20 • Union Elementary School in Montpelier – sustainable stormwater management, provides jobs,
21 creates a healthy environment for next generation.
- 22 • Granite Works in Montpelier – creates jobs, implements the vision within the TIF district,
23 increase in local tax base, opportunity for new business or business expansion.

24
25 CVRPC’s Brownfields program builds partnerships with stakeholders, helps to identify funding sources,
26 and provides education.

27
28 In response to an inquiry, Rock said the Agency of Natural Resources Environmental Atlas identifies
29 brownfield sites. She explained the difference between a brownfield versus a federal Superfund site.

30 31 **TRANSIT FOR ALL**

32 Dan Currier provided an overview of CVRPC’s Transportation is Changing – Make It Work For You
33 project. This project is addressing the existing transit system and its service to older adults and persons
34 with disabilities through inclusive planning. This project engages directly with the potential users of a
35 paratransit system in an effort to be more inclusive. Currier outlined the project and how it has been
36 engaging stakeholders. He highlighted results of a survey and future goals of the project.

37 38 **CODE OF CONDUCT AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

39 J. Potter reviewed changes to the draft policy since the Board’s September review. B. Towbin
40 recommended a minor change in the wording. It was discussed in detail and determined not to be
41 necessary. A minor correction was made to change the word “appraise” to “apprise”.
42

1 *R. Wernecke moved to approve the proposed Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy with the*
2 *grammatical correction; B. Towbin seconded. Motion carried.*

3
4 **MEETING MINUTES**

5 *P. Carbee moved to approve the July and October minutes and the November meeting summary; R.*
6 *Wernecke seconded. Motion carried.*

7
8 **REPORTS**

9 B. Waninger advised CVRPC has been invited by the Central Vermont Public Safety Authority Board to
10 discuss CVRPC and its services. She noted CVRPC is a representative to GMT's Board and that how
11 transit is currently funded is not sustainable. The GMT Board will be discussing alternatives and
12 potential route suspensions. Waninger noted that transit funding is a statewide problem. GMT and
13 other transit providers will be educating Legislators on this issue in the upcoming session. D. Carrier
14 advised he will be appointed to the Public Transit Advisory Council as a new representative and will be
15 sharing updates in the future.

16
17 **ADJOURNMENT**

18 *R. Wernecke moved to adjourn at 8:51 pm; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.*

19
20 Respectfully submitted,

21
22 Nancy Chartrand

23 Office Manager

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, December 2018

F: 802-223-1977

LAND USE PLANNING & MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Regional Plan: Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com.

Participated in a Washington County Hunger Council meeting. CVRPC is assisting the Council with food access mapping to facilitate decision making for the Council's work.

Municipal Plans: Met with Middlesex to discuss the town plan update and adoption process. Met with Fayston regarding a survey for its town plan update.

Mapping: Provided maps to Waterbury (proposed path grant application), Berlin (town owned parcels), and Marshfield (printed zoning and future land use maps). Added new data to regional trails map. Updated Middlesex's webmap. Continued Duxbury's parcel mapping. Uploaded zoning, overlay districts that have been updated in 2018, and future land use data to VCGI portal to facilitate public access.

EMERGENCY PLANNING & HAZARD MITIGATION

Local/Regional Planning: Met with Central Vermont Public Safety Authority to discuss potential services. The conversation included regular assistance with agendas and minutes, and ad hoc services, such as grant writing, project management, and shared services advocacy. CVRPC will be working with the Authority Chair to craft a proposal for the Authority's consideration.

Worked with Vermont Association of Realtors and the Department of Environmental Conservation to plan a NFIP training for realtors, scheduled for January 28, 2019. Staff will be working with DEC and Waterbury, Montpelier, and Berlin to coordinate another NFIP-related training. These municipalities participate in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS). They will receive credit for both trainings, which helps maintain their CRS status. Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com.

Trainings and Workshops: Hosted two successful events:

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Preparedness Workshop - 25 participants from 8 Central Vermont towns and 11 towns outside the region participated. The session incorporated a lively question and answer period. One participant noted, "It was helpful to have some idea of the costs involved in managing the dying and dead trees in the future." Another suggested arranging networking opportunities so adjacent towns can pool resources and share information to deal with EAB.

2-hour Emergency Management Director (EMD) Seminar - Nine participants from four towns attended the EMD Seminar to strengthen their understanding of the EMD role and steps towns can take to clarify the role's authority during disaster events.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP):

Staff supported communities in the development, review, and adoption of local hazard mitigation plans.

Moretown – Initiated discussion on plan development.

Williamstown - Initiated discussion on plan development.

Warren – Completed changes requested by VEM and approved by the Town.

Worcester – The Town adopted the plan. Securing adoption paperwork for transmittal to FEMA.

Woodbury - Completed a draft plan, which was sent to FEMA for review.

CVRPC has funding available to assist towns whose plans have expired or will expire in 2019. Contact Bonnie Waninger, waninger@cvregion.com, if your town is interested in these free services.

TRANSPORTATION

Field Services: Contact Ashley Andrews, Andrews@cvregion.com, for 2019 counts and inventories.

Traffic Counts: Collected data from the permanent Mad River counter.

Road Surface Inventories: Presented Northfield's completed road surface inventory to the Selectboard and began identifying roads for its capital plan.

Transportation Studies:

Paratransit Inclusive Planning: Organized two community meetings to present the results of the paratransit planning input survey. We received 269 surveys, a terrific 34% response rate! Staff will use the results to help inform GMT about preferences of older adults and people with disabilities.

Post-Disaster Data Collection: Attended a meeting with VTrans, Department of Public Safety, and Agency of Digital Services to discuss the possibility of assisting with the creation and deployment of the post-disaster data collection surveys using Survey123.

Microtransit Working Group: Participated in a VTrans working group focused on the feasibility of operating a microtransit system in Montpelier and surrounding communities. Microtransit is a form of Demand Responsive Transit (DRT). DRT service offers flexible routing and/or scheduling of vehicles based on in-advance and real-time service requests.

Cabot Trail Planning Study: Cabot was awarded a Municipal Planning Grant to conduct a trails planning study. Staff will act as project consultant.

Public Transit: CVRPC represents Central Vermont on the Green Mountain Transit (GMT) Board of Commissioners. Staff participated in the following GMT meetings:

Board of Commissioners – See Committee updates.

Leadership Committee – Discussed progress of SSTA/GMT joint committee exploring paratransit services in Chittenden County. GMT may extend SSTA's contract while process is underway.

Operations Committee – Reviewed the Performance Improvement Plan and presentation to Board. Reviewed ongoing projects, including 1 Industrial Avenue and driver barriers for buses.

Rt. 2 Commuter – Participated in two meetings: one with Rural Community Transportation and VTrans and another with GMT, Buildings & General Services, and VTrans to discuss route changes. The State will be relocating some VTrans office to Barre in February. It has requested changes to

the Rt. 2 Commuter to accommodate state employees. We anticipate there will be two weekday buses to Montpelier and two to Barre with the State funding any added costs.

Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP): Continued work with Montpelier on a road erosion inventory capital plan.

Municipal Roads Grants in Aid: Contact Dan, currier@cvregion.com.

Completed invoice review and submission for work completed by Washington, Warren, and Worcester.

Municipal Assistance: Assisted Northfield with development of a Better Connections grant for a trail network masterplan. Met with LCPC, Waterbury, and Stowe to discuss a Better Connections grant and projects for the VT 100 corridor.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Contact Pam DeAndrea, deandrea@cvregion.com, unless otherwise noted.

Winooski River Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:

- Continued to work with Basin Planners on finalization and review of the White River and Winooski River Tactical Basin Plans. The final Winooski Tactical Basin Plan is available at <https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/2018%20Winooski%20River%20TBP.pdf>.
- Worked on project development with Winooski Basin Planner and Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District.
- Forwarded projects from Stormwater Master Plans to watershed groups for further development and implementation.

Re-classification of Surface Waters (604b): Began outreach to communities on re-classification according to 2017 Vermont Water Quality Standards. These opportunities were identified in the recently finalized Tactical Basin Plans. This effort is funded by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources through a statewide RPC agreement to the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission.

Clean Water Block Grant Program: If your project is ready for final design or implementation, please contact Pam to determine eligibility. There is a 20% match for these funds, which can be in-kind.

Berlin Town Office Stormwater Design: Continued project management for final design. Dubois and King is providing a 60% design for review before proceeding to the 90% design phase.

Pouliot Avenue Stormwater Construction: Continued project management for stormwater mitigation of a gully. Construction will occur next spring.

Ecosystem Restoration Program Grants: The next application deadline is March. Please contact Pam for grant writing or project development assistance. CVRPC received an award to complete final design of a stormwater mitigation project at the Plainfield Health Center. Awaiting a contract from the DEC.

Mad River and Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plans: The Friends of the Mad River, Watershed

Consulting Associates, and CVRPC completed final ranking of stormwater sites in the Mad River and Kingsbury Branch watersheds. CVRPC has shared this ranking data with the towns for comment. The consultants are continuing to develop design specifications. They anticipate designs will be completed by February. The master plans will be completed in spring 2019. The plans will provide eight towns conceptual designs that can be used for funding applications stormwater implementation projects.

Northfield Water Street Stormwater Mitigation: DEC awarded this construction project an additional \$385,600 for changes related to floodplain challenges and adjacent property opportunities. The engineers will complete the final design this winter. Construction is expected in summer 2019.

Water Wise Woodlands: Reconvening the steering committee in early January to discuss roll out of the cartoon and to plan for a late winter/early spring workshop. Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com.

Forest Integrity: Staff gathered survey results and discussed them with the steering committee. The results indicate towns are seeking additional resources and information. Committee members will be planning additional outreach in the spring. Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Brownfields: Contact Clare Rock, rock@cvregion.com.

Staff prepared close out paperwork for CVRPC's FY15 EPA brownfields grant. CVRPC will continue shepherding several sites towards redevelopment. Staff submitted successful funding requests to CCRPC and LCPC on behalf of the Granite Works and Bonacorsi sites. Staff attended the EPA grant writing workshop, meet with CVRPC's contracted grant writer to discuss the new application, and attended a DEC/RPC/RDC brownfields roundtable meeting.

Partnerships for Progress:

- Participated in the Barre Area Development Corporation Board meeting. Quarterly meetings offer an exchange of information about each organization's activities.
- Participated in the monthly THRIVE meeting. This multi-sector partnership focuses on creating an accountable community for health. It aims to address the social determinates of health: economic stability, physical environment, education, food, social context, and the health care system. The partnership is working to increase social connectedness as its first priority.
- Participated in the MRVPD monthly meeting. See Committee Reports.

OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office:

- Completed the FY2018 Audit. It posted at <http://centralvtplanning.org/about/financial-audits/>. Preparing FY20 Indirect Rate Proposal for submission in January.
- Modified the Commission's SEP retirement program vender to Edward Jones.

- Sent letter and VAPDA annual report to Central Vermont Legislators to highlight regional challenges and CVRPC work.

Staffing: CVRPC is pleased to announce that Jonathan DeLaBruere has joined our team! Jonathan will staff the Commission's emergency management and hazard mitigation program and work with Senior Planner Clare Rock to provide land use assistance to municipalities. His diverse experiences are a wonderful fit with CVRPC's municipal assistance programs. A Northeast Kingdom native, he serves as a Lieutenant for the City of Winooski Fire Department and is an instructor for the Vermont Fire Academy. He worked to secure grant funding for multiple infrastructure improvement projects while working as the Town of Duxbury's Selectboard Assistant. Formerly Vice Chair of the Winooski Planning Commission, he witnessed how the rippling effect of diverse ideas and small changes can simultaneously improve a community's infrastructure and its overall wellbeing. Jonathan holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Environmental Sciences and Business Administration from UVM and Champlain College respectively. He can be reached at delabruere@cvregion.com. Welcome Jonathan!

Upcoming Meetings:

Please verify meeting location at www.centralvtplanning.org by viewing meeting agendas.

JANUARY

Jan 1		<i>New Year's Day Holiday – CVRPC Offices Closed</i>
Jan 7	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Jan 7	6 pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee, CVMC, Berlin
Jan 8	6 pm	Executive Committee, Central VT Chamber, Berlin (if needed)
Jan 8	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Jan 9	10 am	Local Emergency Management Plan Training/Writing Workshop, CVRPC
Jan 10	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
Jan 14	3 pm	Bylaw Workgroup, CVRPC Office
Jan 16	8 am	8-hour Emergency Management Director course, Civic Center, Barre
Jan 17	7 pm	Mad River Valley Planning District Steering Committee, Waitsfield
Jan 21		<i>MLK Holiday – CVRPC Offices Closed</i>
Jan 22	6 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Jan 24	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Jan 28	10 am	NFIP Training for Realtors, Vermont Assoc. of Realtors, Montpelier
Jan 29	5 pm	Welcome Back, Legislators Reception, Capitol Plaza, Montpelier
Jan 30	6 pm	Planning & Zoning Roundtable on Community Engagement, CVMC, Berlin

FEBRUARY

Feb 4	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office
Feb 12	7 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber, Berlin

Visit CVRPC's web site at www.centralvtplanning.org to view our blog and for the latest planning publications and news.

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Committee & Appointed Representative Reports
December 2018

Meeting minutes for CVRPC Committees are available at www.centralvtplanning.org.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Monday of week prior to Commission meeting; 4pm)

- Heard presentation from CV Fiber (formerly CV Internet), a communications union district equivalent to a municipality. The organization is currently in a heavy organizational phase. It is planning a pilot project projected for construction by end of 2019. Discussion of potential CVRPC planning and outreach support occurred.
- *authorize the Chair, Treasurer and Executive Director as signatories for the Commission's checking account at Community National Bank*
- *authorize officers present to sign a letter affirming the Commission's November 5, 2018 decision to designate Chair, Treasurer and Executive Director as account signatories for the Line of Credit.*
- *Confirm the schedule for the annual Executive Director evaluation process and appointed the Chair as the process lead assisted by the Vice Chair.*
- Discussed property transfer tax formula funding. The Committee was in consensus that RPCs should pursue full funding under the formula during the upcoming Legislative session.
- Authorized signature of an amendment to the Northfield Water Street Stormwater Structure Design agreement with DEC. The amendment adds \$385,600 for construction activities and design changes related to floodplain challenges and adjacent property opportunities.
- Approved updated wage ranges. Ranges were last updated in 2016, and the planning market has experienced a \$5,000-\$10,000 wage increase over the past 18 months as the workforce shrinks.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February and March; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

- Discussed the upcoming electric utilities presentation. Outlined key questions/presentation focus which will focus on assisting CVRPC to address preferred sites.
- Discussed Fecteau Residential, Inc site visit and hearing comments. Discussed traffic impacts.
- Discussed the Jurisdictional Opinion Request for Montpelier projects within the Tax Increment Financing District and the statewide policy implications of the District Coordinator eventual determination. Elected to wait until the Jurisdictional Opinion was issued to make any comments.
- Discussed the Montpelier Hotel and Parking Garage Act 250 Application (5W1591). Criterion 10, conformance with local and regional plans, is not used for project review as noted in 10 V.S.A. § 6086(b). The Committee determined the project met CVRPC's SRI definition based on the floodplain/river corridor and potential transportation impacts (parking). It directed staff to

request a project presentation, to obtain the traffic study with a VTrans' perspective, and to discuss floodplain and river corridor impacts with ANR.

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet. Will hold joint meeting with Project Review Committee on January 24 for a preferred sites discussion with utilities.

TOWN PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (4th Tuesday; 6:30 pm)

November meeting cancelled due to weather. Did not meet in December due to holidays. January meeting is final review of local transportation planning projects.

BROWNFIELDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (4th Monday, 4pm)

This Committee will not be meeting regularly until new grant funds are secured.

CLEAN WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (2nd Thursday, 4pm)

The CWAC did not meet in December. In January, the CWAC will meet to hear a presentation from Patti Casey, of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Ms. Casey is with the pesticide and groundwater monitoring program and will be talking about her work within Central Vermont.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

- It appears DEC may continue the Clean Water Block Grant program; still evolving. There will likely be less money for capital projects in 2020 including less from VTrans for transportation-related water quality projects. VAPDA will continue to advocate for more dollars for projects and project development. VAPDA created a table demonstrating the RPC role in water quality investment (attached).
- Chad Allen presented VTrans' proposed Project Selection and Prioritization system. Intent is to have it ready to use for FY22 Capital Program. RPC's advocating for TACs to have a continuing strong role.
- There is proposed legislation that would require digital (property) surveys to be submitted to VCGI. Second part of the bill would look at a central digital survey library.
- LiDAR at 1 foot contours is coming in January 2019 for the entire state.
- Jon Copans discussed the partnership of RPCs with the Vermont Council on Rural Development.

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

No activities from Central Vermont.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

- Approved the FY19 Adjusted Operating budget totaling \$21,324,276 with an Adjusted Capital budget totaling \$7,145,827.
- Increase fixed route operating assessments from 3% to 4% (affects Chittenden County member communities).
- Approved presenting the FY20 Operating budget, with a 4% increase to the fixed route operating assessments, for public comment.
- Requested staff draft a plan to reach out to all urban and rural for increased funding by February.
- Reviewed progress using charts developed for the Performance Improvement Plan.
- Approved a contract award be made to Proterra for the purchase of two electric buses for a term not exceeding three years.
- Approved having staff design and implement additional Barre service. This is the first step in a three -step process, service structure, public hearing and then present to board for approval.
- Awarded a contract for up to five (5) years of legal services, not to exceed a total of \$250,000 for the duration of the contract, to Monaghan Safer Ducham PLLC.
- Awarded a contract for up to (5) five years of IT Services not to exceed a total of \$150,000 for the duration of the contract to Twinstare Technologies.
- Held Executive Session regarding personnel matters.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

- The *MRV Trails Collaborative* closed its funding gap for the trailhead kiosks project. The project will be completed by September 2019.
- *Local Opportunities (FLO) Committee* - Positive outcome of the first public informational meeting, attended by ~60 people, with many questions and opportunities to address misunderstandings about the proposal. The team met with the Waitsfield Select Board, which proposed a Memorandum of Understanding between the three towns that would allow each town to pass its own Local Options Tax (LOT) and have Waitsfield be the pass-through for funds directed back into the community. Equitable distribution of LOT funds remains under discussion. Next steps include hosting public meetings for Warren and Fayston and meeting with retail businesses and non-profits to give them an opportunity to evaluate and provide feedback.
- *MRV Housing Coalition* meeting in January. Goal is to revitalize the group and craft a plan for advancing initiatives. Lack of affordable housing is affecting workforce recruitment and retention.