



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 10, 2019 at 6:30 pm

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

6:15 pm – Social and pizza

<u>Page</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>AGENDA</u>
	6:30 ¹	Adjustments to the Agenda
		Public Comments
2	6:35	Climate Economy Model Communities , <i>Jon Copans, Vermont Council on Rural Development</i> (enclosed) This program helps communities build and implement priority actions that increase economic vitality and affordability in a time of climate change.
4	7:35	Municipal Plan Approval and Confirmation of Planning Process , <i>Bill Arrand, Town Plan Review Committee Chair</i> (enclosed) ² Report and recommendation from Town Plan Review Committee regarding the <i>Town of Warren</i> . As warranted, actions may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Approve the municipal plan per 24 V.S.A. § 4350(b), – Confirm the municipality's planning process per 24 V.S.A. § 4350(a), and – Approve signature of the CVRPC resolution by the Chair.
7	7:45	Meeting Minutes – July 9, 2019 (enclosed) ²
	7:50	Reports (enclosed) Updates and questions on Staff and Committee Reports
	8:00	Adjournment

Next Meeting: October 8, 2019

¹ Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

² Anticipated action item.



Vermont Climate Economy Initiative

Model Communities Program

The **Vermont Climate Economy Model Communities Program** is designed to help communities build and implement priority actions that increase economic vitality and affordability in a time of climate change. The ultimate goal is to help communities model rapid change by implementing energy efficiency, transportation system transformation, renewable energy generation, working lands development, and entrepreneurship and business incubation to spur economic progress. The program is a partnership between the Vermont Council on Rural Development, Efficiency Vermont, and other utilities and partners to provide concentrated services to homes and businesses and project development to the community. The program works with two communities annually to model transformative change.

Community Selection and Start Up

The Climate Economy Model Communities Program launched in spring of 2017. After a competitive process the communities of Pownal and Middlebury were selected to participate in the program in 2017. Another month-long application period begins in November of 2017 for communities interested in participating in 2018. The full Request-For-Proposals for the 2018 Program is available here: <http://www.vtrural.org/model-communities>.

Community Engagement and Mobilization

The first step in community engagement will be to build a Steering Committee of key local leaders, stakeholders, and representatives from the full geographic, demographic, and vocational spectrum to guide the local Climate Economy effort. The Steering Committee will help plan for the project kick-off and help to systematically invite the entire community together. The project will kick-off with a day-long session for the full community with a Climate Economy Visiting Team of experts, leaders, and potential program implementers, investors, and supporters. Breakout sessions will be held to envision possible community initiatives. Partners including the electric and efficiency utilities will participate in conversations about potential efficiency, energy transformation, and renewable generation offerings for households, businesses, municipalities and organizations.

Priority Setting

Building from the kick-off meeting, the full community will be invited together a month later for an evening session to hear specific concepts for community climate economy initiatives. Community members will select 3 to 5 goal areas for action. Interested community members will be asked to join task forces focused on planning for and implementing these goals. A Task force or Task Forces focused on Home and Business renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy transformation offerings will also continue work to define and promote those offerings.

Planning and Implementation

A planning effort will be facilitated uniting the task forces with expert partners including the utilities. Once planning is complete, work will begin to implement the chosen initiatives. Utility and efficiency partners will continue to collaborate with local partners to implement efficiency and energy transformation measures with households and businesses.

Measuring and Celebrating

As the local facilitation process concludes and implementation continues, an evaluation will be performed to assess the economic and carbon reduction impacts of the ongoing initiatives. The success will be celebrated by publishing a report, by branding the Community's story and sharing with the media and other interested communities and stakeholders.





09/10/19

Board of Commissioners

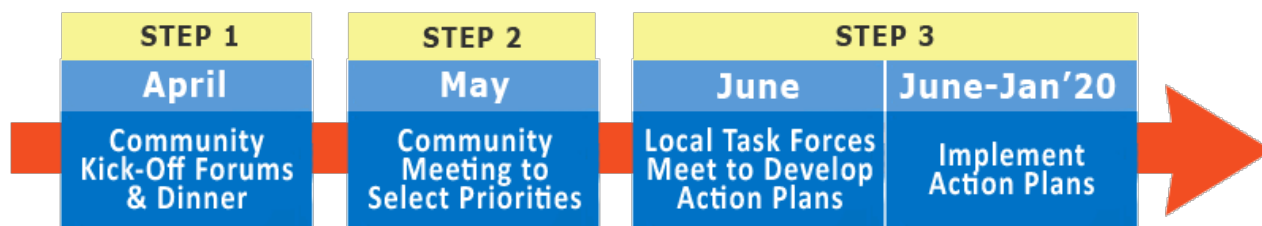
Model Communities Program

Page 3
Coming to Marshfield and Plainfield in April!

Plainfield and Marshfield successfully submitted a joint application to participate in the Vermont Council on Rural Development's (VCRD) Climate Economy Model Communities Program in 2019. This program – a partnership of VCRD, Efficiency Vermont and local leaders – is designed to help communities identify and implement priority actions that increase economic vitality and affordability in a time of climate change. Examples of locally defined projects include energy efficiency, transportation system transformation, renewable energy generation, working lands development, and entrepreneurship and business incubation to spur economic progress. Key aspects of the program include:

- While this process is focused on the climate economy, transportation, and energy transformation, it is up to the citizens of Plainfield and Marshfield to set specific directions.
- A key component of program success is the active leadership of local citizens who work with VCRD and other partners to move priorities forward.
- This program is focused on actions that fall within the power of participating communities rather than advocating for policy changes in Montpelier or Washington.
- A key aim of this program is to include a great mix of people from all parts of the community to be sure any focus of the program has benefits for all.

In March 2019 a planning committee of local leaders, stakeholders, and representatives from throughout the two communities will convene to guide the local Climate Economy effort and plan for the kick-off in April. Here's an overview of the process:



Step 1 - Community Forums and Dinner (April 2019)

In April, the project will kick-off with afternoon and evening brainstorming sessions for the full community with an expert Climate Economy Visiting Team. The kick-off includes a free community dinner.

Step 2 - Priority Setting (May 2019)

The full community will gather a month later to hear specific concepts for community climate economy initiatives built from ideas gathered at the kick-off forums. Community members will select 3 to 4 action ideas in areas including transportation efficiency and home and business energy opportunities. Interested community members will be asked to join task forces focused on planning and implementing projects.

Step 3 - Planning and Implementation (June and onward)

A final community gathering unites the task forces with Resource Team experts including the utilities to set work plans. Work will then begin to implement the chosen initiatives. Ongoing support, for up to one year, will be provided by VCRD staff.

To learn more: Visit www.vtrural.org or contact us at jon@vtrural.org or 802-225-6393.



Vermont Council on Rural Development

Unleashing the power of Vermonters to create a better future

The Climate Economy Model Communities Program is a community-driven process with local leaders, VCRD, Efficiency Vermont, and other partners to cultivate economic development, innovation, and affordability in the face of climate change. This event is produced by VCRD, a non-profit organization supporting the locally-defined progress of Vermont's rural communities.



MEMO

Date: August 28, 2019
To: CVRPC Board of Commissioners
From: Bill Arrand, Chair Town Plan Review Committee
Re: Warren Municipal Plan Approval

✉ ACTION REQUESTED: Act upon the recommendations of the Town Plan Review Committee.

The Town Plan Review Committee convened a hearing on August 27 in the Milne Room at the Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce, 33 Stewart Lane, Barre, VT, to hear public input on the 2019 Warren Town Plan. Seven people were in attendance, including 3 Town Plan Review Committee members, 2 CVRPC staff, and 2 Warren community members: Ruth Robbins, Warren Zoning Administrator and Planning Coordinator, and James Sanford, Warren Planning Commission Vice Chair.

The Committee allowed CVRPC staff to introduce the plan, and posed questions to the Warren representatives focused on housing, child care, and energy. When discussing housing, the committee inquired about the impact of Airbnb and other temporary rental services that may be occupying otherwise year-round units. Robbins and Sanford agreed that the Town is reforming their zoning to accommodate for higher densities, but noted that Airbnb specifically may be a state-wide problem. The committee also raised concerns over child care in Warren, and Robbins explained that many families rely on services in Waitsfield and currently there are no providers in Warren.

Regarding energy, the Committee confirmed that Warren was not seeking an affirmative determination of energy compliance. Warren has worked with CVRPC to develop data, maps, and plan language that was included as an appendix to the plan. While the Town is eager to play a role in achieving the State's Energy Goals, they are not willing to risk potential land use conflicts in the near-term. They may be interested in pursuing the determination in the future, however.

Recommendations: At the close of the public hearing, the Committee approved the following:

- **Recommend to the CVRPC Board confirmation of the local planning process as per under 24 VSA §4350(a).**
- **Recommend to the CVRPC Board approval of the municipal plan per 24 V.S.A. § 4350(b).**

Staff provided the following recommendations for Warren to consider in its next plan update:

1. Regarding the State Planning Goals:

- *State Goal 3: To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters.*
 - o Staff recommends that education section of Plan include discussion about uses for the school (after school events, community gatherings, use as a shelter in Local Emergency Management Plan, etc.) and prospective uses if the school were to be consolidated. Further, while vocational opportunities are mentioned, they should be given a similar amount of breadth compared to the elementary/high school sections. For example, identifying prospective needs for vocational opportunities and where those training facilities may be found inside or outside of the community may further this goal.
- *State Goal 11: To ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing for all Vermonters.*
- *(D) Accessory apartments within or attached to single family residences which provide affordable housing in close proximity to cost-effective care and supervision for relatives or disabled or elderly persons should be allowed.*
 - o Staff recommends the inclusion of more discussion on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The Plan does not mention these at all, but does discuss varieties of housing that would meet the needs of all residents. Staff recognizes that the amount of condos and multi-family units may not allow for ADUs to be the most adequate form of housing for a majority of residents.

As ADUs are permitted in Warren's 2008 zoning regulations, Staff finds that the municipality is allowing them but recommends a more explicit recognition that these types of units can provide housing for diverse populations such as elderly relatives and/or young professionals. If towns want to increase the amount of ADUs, the Town may consider ways to streamline the permitting process, or offering information to residents on how to build these units on the Municipal Website.

- *State Goal 13: To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care and to integrate child care issues into the planning process, including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care work force development.*
 - o Staff recommends that in the next plan, Warren address the need for child care more thoroughly. Plan recognizes that child care is a major need for the community due to many parents both being employed. However, plan does not identify clear action items that the Town may implement to address the need.

Examples to address this need include: Maintaining a listing of providers in or near Warren on the municipal website, encouraging local businesses to offer assistance to childcare businesses, and developing partnerships with large employers to identify workforce childcare needs and develop strategies to meet those needs. More information on meeting the State's Child Care goal may be found in [this document published by the Windham Regional Commission](#).

- 2 Regarding compatibility with approved plans of other municipalities in the region: Staff finds the plan to be compatible with approved plans of other municipalities.
- 3 Regarding the required elements: Staff finds the plan to contain all of the required elements.



RESOLUTION

Whereas Title 24, VSA, Section §4350 requires that regional planning commissions, after public notice, shall review the planning process of member municipalities and shall so confirm when a municipality:

1. is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan that is consistent with the goals contained in 24 V.S.A. § 4302;
2. is engaged in a process to implement its municipal plan, consistent with the program for implementation required under 24 V.S.A. § 4382; and
3. is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes;

Whereas as part of the consultation process, a regional planning commission shall consider whether a municipality has adopted a plan;

Whereas a regional planning commission shall review and approve plans of its member municipalities, when approval is requested and warranted, and a commission shall approve a plan if it finds that the plan:

1. is consistent with the goals established in 24 V.S.A. § 4302;
2. is compatible with its regional plan;
3. is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region; and
4. contains all the elements included in 24 V.S.A. § 4382(a)(1)-(12);

Whereas the Town of Warren prepared a municipal plan in accordance with 24 V.S.A Chapter 117;

Whereas the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission concluded that the 2019 Warren Town Plan meets the requirements for approval; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission:

1. approves the 2019 Warren Town Plan, adopted April 23, 2019; and
2. consulted with and confirms the planning process of the Town of Warren.

Under 24 V.S.A. § 4350, when an adopted municipal plan expires, its approval and confirmation of the municipality's planning process also expire. Recommendations made by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission are attached and should be considered when developing the next municipal plan.

A municipality that has adopted a plan may define and regulate land development in any manner that the municipality establishes in its bylaws, provided those bylaws are in conformance with the plan and are adopted for the purposes set forth in 24 V.S.A. § 4302.

ADOPTED by the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission on September 10, 2019.

Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
July 9, 2019

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, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>		Mark Nicholson, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plainfield	Bram Towbin
<input type="checkbox"/>		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jim Volz, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warren	Alison Duckworth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	<input type="checkbox"/>		J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Jack Pauly, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayston	Karl Klein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Kirby Keeton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Michael Gray, Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/>		Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Clare Rock

Guests: Anne Margolis, VT Dept. of Public Service; Steve Knowlton, East Montpelier Energy Committee

Call To Order

Chair L. Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:39 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.
The meeting began with introductions.

Adjustments To The Agenda

None.

Public Comments

None.

Energy Storage

Chair Hill-Eubanks introduced Anne Margolis of the Planning Division of the Vermont Department of Public Service who provided a presentation on energy storage. Margolis advised the Department has been studying energy storage for several years now and that there are many storage projects currently in Vermont. It is an ongoing puzzle to address the needs. She informed the Board of the current technologies being used in Vermont, both residential and commercial; with the primary source being the Lithium Ion battery. She advised that cost effective batteries store energy for four hours; currently

1 there is no longer term storage available that is cost effective. State energy policy requires solutions to
2 be cost effective. It was noted that smaller utilities are challenged by their size when it comes to
3 leveraging cost effective storage.
4

5 In 2017 the Public Service Department was charged with submitting a report on the issue of deploying
6 energy storage on the Vermont electric transmission and distribution system. A copy of this report is
7 available on CVRPC's website - Energy Storage Study. Margolis noted that while there has been
8 significant activity and new information learned since the report, the conclusions still hold valid and true
9 and it has a lot of good information.
10

11 Margolis said Vermont currently has no targeted goals for storage; however, the State is still doing quite
12 well in facilitating storage options. She outlined the benefits of storage – peak shaving, regional energy
13 markets, renewable integration, and resilience. She noted that Vermont is not energy self-sufficient and
14 relies on and works with other sources the New England Region to meet the peak needs.
15

16 Significant discussion ensued with several questions from the Board regarding the potential for the State
17 to provide credits for municipalities who invest in storage; the costs and benefits to municipalities as a
18 whole in addition to individual homeowners; decommissioning and lifespan of the storage facilities; and
19 what a reasonable goal of storage would be statewide.
20

21 **Municipal Plan Determination Of Energy Compliance**

22 Bill Arrand presented the findings of the Town Plan Review Committee on the Determination of Energy
23 Compliance for the Waterbury Municipal Plan. The Board had approved the Plan previously. Arrand
24 said the Town Plan Review Committee held a second hearing. It recommends that the Commission
25 make a positive finding for the Determination of Energy Compliance. There was additional discussion
26 regarding Shutesville Wildlife Corridor and its specific constraints.
27

28 Also discussed was that energy determination encompasses issues that are more complex than a regular
29 town plan. It was recommended that a lot of outreach be conducted during the process, and that
30 consistency is important between the regional plan and individual town plans (i.e. Shutesville Wildlife
31 Corridor is not identified in the regional plan as constrained).
32

33 S. Lotspeich advised that the Waterbury Conservation Commission is working closely with the
34 Waterbury Planning Commission on the Shutesville Wildlife Corridor issue. It was noted that since
35 Determination of Energy Compliance provides the community with Substantial Deference in the
36 Certificate of Public Good process, which gives the Town more leverage with any decisions related to
37 projects that might arise.
38

39 *B. Atwood moved to approve the Determination of Energy Compliance for the Town of Waterbury*
40 *Municipal Plan; D. La Haye seconded. Arrand noted that since Waterbury's Plan is approved they can*
41 *make changes to the plan, such as making Shutesville Corridor more constrained against development.*
42 *B. Atwood amended the motion to add "and to authorize the Chair to sign the resolution". D. La Haye*
43 *seconded the amendment. S. Lotspeich and A. Hornblas abstained from voting. Motion carried.*
44

Municipal Plan Approval & Confirmation of Planning Process

Arrand advised the Town Plan Review Committee met immediately prior to the Board meeting. He noted that after significant discussion, the Town Plan Review Committee recommended the Commission approve both the plan and the planning process for the Middlesex Town Plan. There is no energy component to this Town Plan. C. Rock added that the recommendation is for provisional approval; the approval is contingent on the municipality formally adopting the plan later this summer without substantive changes as determined by CVRPC. The Middlesex Planning Commission approved the plan, and it was submitted to the Selectboard. The Selectboard hearing is later in July with a town-wide vote to be held in August. The reason for recommending a provisional approval is to allow the Plan to be approved ahead of the September 30 Municipal Planning Grant application deadline. Middlesex is planning to apply for a grant. An approved Plan must be in place for it to be eligible for the grant.

J. Potter moved to approve the the Town of Middlesex Town Plan, confirm the planning process under 24 VSA 4350(a), and approve the Chair's signature of the resolution; D. Torre seconded. Motion carried.

FY20 Work Plan & Budget

Chair Hill-Eubanks advised this item is being tabled and will be presented at a later date.

Resolution on Complying with Vermont Open Meeting Law

B. Waninger gave an overview of the resolution as it relates to the Commission and its committees that meet regularly. The resolution notes where information for meetings is posted and can be obtained.

B. Atwood moved to adopt the resolution; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

J. Potter had comments on page 50 of packet – Line 2: document is being “reviewed” not revised. Line 10: word missing- recommended changes will be “incorporated” into a new draft.

J. Potter moved to approve the June 11, 2019 minutes with the noted changes; B. Arrand seconded. Motion carried.

Reports

Waninger notified the Board that Jonathan DeLaBruere tendered his resignation today. Staff will post the position tomorrow and fill the position as quickly as possible.

Adjournment

D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:21 pm; S. Lotspeich seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Chartrand
Office Manager