



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 10, 2020 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	Regional Planning, Clare Rock, Senior Planner (enclosed)
		a) Municipal Needs, Challenges, and Successes Roundtable - Commissioners will be asked to identify and share pressing issues at the local level to help inform opportunities for regional collaboration and services.
		b) New Regional Plan Development Process and draft Vision – Staff will provide a brief orientation to the process of developing the new regional plan. Commissioners will be asked to provide input on the draft Vision statement and accompanying Aspirations.
11	8:20	Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2020 (enclosed) ²
15	8:25	Reports (enclosed)
		Updates and questions on Staff and Committee Reports
	8:30	Adjournment

Next Meeting: April 14, 2020

Persons with disabilities who require assistance or special arrangements to participate in programs or activities are encouraged to contact Nancy Chartrand at 802-229-0389 or chartrand@cvregion.com at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

¹ Times are approximate unless otherwise advertised.

² Anticipated action item.



MEMO

Date: March 2, 2020

To: CVRPC Board of Commissioners

From: Clare Rock, Senior Planner

Re: Commissioner Homework / Preparation for Board Meeting

✉ ACTION REQUESTED: In preparation for Tuesday's Board meeting, please review the information contained within and come prepared with your responses.

The March Board meeting is the start of an on-going conversation which will set the foundation for the new regional plan. This is not the only opportunity to share information and provide input. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can provide your responses to Clare Rock at rock@cvregion.com in advance. Staff will share them at the meeting.

a) **Municipal Needs, Challenges, and Successes Roundtable** – Commissioners will be asked to identify and share pressing issues at the local level to help inform opportunities for regional collaboration and services.

Each municipality grapples with a unique set of needs and challenges when planning for the future. Municipalities are also confronted with addressing and responding to unforeseen or unplanned events. Municipalities can learn from other community's successes in confronting and managing the needs of today and the needs of tomorrow. At a regional level, understanding local needs, challenges, and success can help identify and inform opportunities or areas for regional collaboration.

Consider what challenges your municipality has been confronted with in the last 10 years. How could have the municipality responded differently? What are the upcoming needs of your municipality in the next 10 years? What types of assistance or services may be needed? What has worked well, what successful projects or services have impacted your community the most?

Commissioner Homework

Commissioners will be asked to identify 5-7 municipal needs, challenges and/or successes to share during the Board meeting on Tuesday. To ensure each Board member has the opportunity to share their responses at the meeting, please take a few moments ahead of the meeting to jot down your responses.

What are your top 5-7 Municipal Needs, Challenges, and Successes?	4.
1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.

b) New Regional Plan Development Process and draft Vision – Staff will provide a brief orientation to the process of development the new regional plan.

Commissioners will be asked to provide input on the draft Vision statement and accompanying Aspirations.

The Regional Plan Committee is starting work on the new regional plan. The Committee has 2 documents for Commissioner review and feedback. They are:

<i>Document title</i>	<i>Description</i>
Draft Plan Development + Process Guide	Outlines the general process and approach for developing the new regional plan.
Draft Vision + Aspirations	Draft Vision Statement for the new regional plan, based upon the Vision Statement drafted for Plan Central Vermont and abbreviated. Aspirations (high-level planning principles to guide development of subsequent plan goals and policies) are adapted from the Plan Central Vermont Vision statement. Both were previously endorsed/supported by the CVRPC board.

Background Information

What is a Vision Statement? A vision is like a lighthouse, which illuminates rather than limits, giving direction rather than destination.¹ A vision statement is a view of how the world should

¹ Haines, Anna, *Using Visioning in a Comprehensive Planning Process* (G3752) <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr->

be as a result of your work.² A vision statement captures what community members value most about their community, the shared image of what they want their community to become, and the preferred approaches to creating the desired future.³

The Regional Plan Vision Statement will be used to provide context for consideration and adoption of long-range goals and related policies. It can act as a ‘sounding-board’ during the inventory and analysis of data. Relating trends back to the Vision can help focus discussion and guide decisions on land use policies.

What are the Aspirations? The aspirations accompany the Vision Statement will be used as a set of high-level planning principles which will guide subsequent Regional Plan goals and policies.

Commissioner Homework

At the Board meeting, staff will provide a brief explanation of these documents and seek feedback. **Please come prepared to respond. Commissioners will specifically be asked the following questions:**

Vision Statement	Do you agree with this Vision Statement?	Answer choices will be: Yes No Indifferent or Unsure
Aspirations	Which 5 of these Aspirations are the most critical or important to the Region in the next 20-30 years?	Commissioners will be asked to identify their top 5 aspirations at the meeting.

[ap/clue/Documents/publicProcesses/Using_Visioning_in_Comprehensive_Planning_Process.pdf](#) [accessed Feb. 13, 2020]

² Wiener, George, *Nonprofit Mission Statements vs Vision Statements*, <https://www.wholewhale.com/tips/nonprofit-mission-statements-vs-vision-statements/> [accessed Feb. 13, 2020]

³ DHCD, *Planning Manual Module 1*, <https://accd.vermont.gov/sites/accdnew/files/documents/CD/CPR/DHCD-Planning-Manual-Module1.pdf>, page 46 [accessed Feb. 13, 2020]

New Regional Plan

Plan Development + Planning Process Guide

Purpose of the Regional Plan

Under state statute the general purpose of the plan is for “guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, efficient, and economic development of the region which will, in accordance with the present and future needs and resources, best promote the health, safety, order, convenience, prosperity, and welfare of the inhabitants as well as efficiency and economy in the process of development.” And in doing so it will recommend “a distribution of population and of the uses of the land for urbanization, trade, industry, habitation, recreation, agriculture, forestry, and other uses as will tend to:

- (1) create conditions favorable to transportation, health, safety, civic activities, and educational and cultural opportunities;
- (2) reduce the wastes of financial, energy, and human resources which result from either excessive congestion or excessive scattering of population;
- (3) promote an efficient and economic utilization of drainage, energy, sanitary, and other facilities and resources;
- (4) promote the conservation of the supply of food, water, energy, and minerals;
- (5) promote the production of food and fiber resources and the reasonable use of mineral, water, and renewable energy resources; and
- (6) promote the development of housing suitable to the needs of the region and its communities. ”

.” ([24 VSA § 4347. Purposes of regional plan](#))

Plan Components

Theme + Tone

The plan will be visionary and inspiring PLUS guiding and helpful for Central Vermont municipalities. It will include a Vision for the future and include a set of high-level aspirations. The aspirations will be used as planning principles which will guide subsequent goals and policies. The plan will provide informative and explanatory descriptions and analysis; and identify emerging trends. It will also contain innovative, creative, and forward thinking strategies to common challenges.

Core Factors

The plan will include:

- ✓ An accessible writing style

- ✓ Information and data collected during the *Plan Central Vermont* process
- ✓ An identification of emerging trends and highlight key findings
- ✓ Clear link between findings and policies
- ✓ Clear criteria to determine projects of Substantial Regional Impact (SRI) and will utilize the draft criteria developed by the Project Review Committee
- ✓ Strategic Implementation Program

The plan will not:

- ✗ Be an encyclopedia of Central Vermont nor shall it be a data repository
- ✗ Act as a how-to planning manual

Plan Format

- Balance of text and graphics (including a mix of charts, photographs and illustrations).
- Likely include a data appendix or reference a data library.
- May not follow the traditional chapters as outlined by the required elements in Statute.

Stakeholder Groups

<p>Plan Audience</p> <p>Groups who are most impacted by the Plan and who will use the Plan</p>	<p>Primary Audience</p> <p>Municipalities and Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD): to guide coordination between local and regional planning, and foster mutual cooperation and collaboration on local planning efforts</p> <p>Developers: to guide compatible development which conforms to the regional vision</p> <p>CVRPC (Board, Committees, + Staff): to provide direction on policy, implementation, workplan development and strategic planning</p> <hr/> <p>Secondary Audience</p> <p>State Planning + Policy Offices</p> <p>State Permitting Officials, Boards + Commissions</p> <p>Economic Development, Environmental, and Community Organizations</p> <p>Non-profit organizations and advocacy organizations</p> <p>Neighboring Regions</p> <p>Citizens of the Region</p>
<p>Key Partners</p>	<p>Primary Partners</p> <p>Municipalities</p>

Regional groups and organizations which are instrumental to successful implementation of the Plan	CVRPC Secondary Partners Mad River Valley Planning District Regional organizations and advocacy organizations (such as: Downstreet Housing and Community Development, Capstone, School Supervisory Unions, Friends of the Winooski River, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, CVEDC, BADC, CV Chamber of Commerce
Content Experts Regional and Statewide groups and organizations which may be asked to review sections of the plan for accuracy and technical input	VNRC Energy Action Network Friends of the Winooski River CVEDC Health Department District Office ...etc.

Public Participation

Types of Public Participation – a guide to the various levels of participation which will be used during the plan development process. Adapted from *International Association for Public Participation*.

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate
Participation Goal	To provide balanced + objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the group throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the group on each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

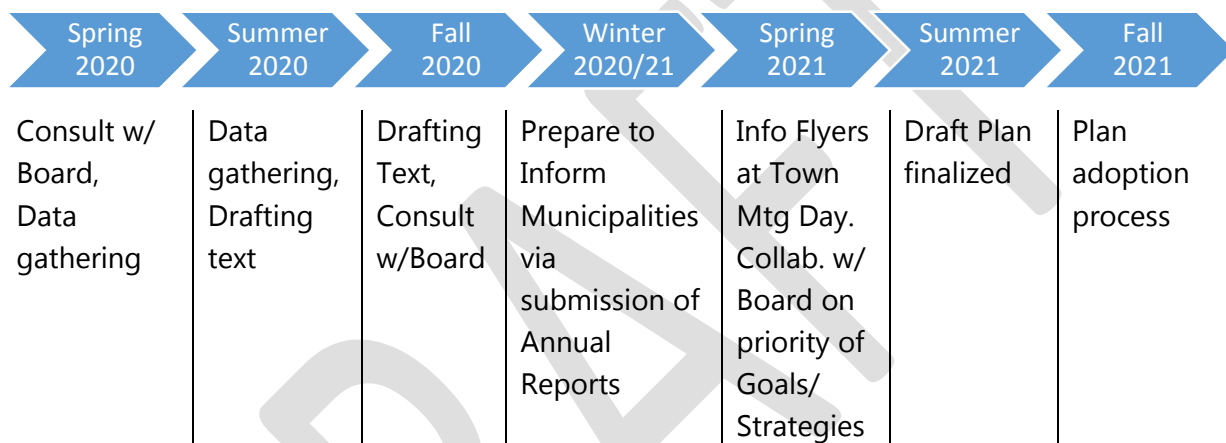
The Promise	You will be kept informed.	You will be kept informed; listened to; concerns and aspirations acknowledged; You will provide feedback on how decisions were implemented.	You will be kept informed; Your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives. You will provide feedback and input on how decisions were implemented.	You will provide advice and innovation in formulating solutions and your advice and recommendations will be incorporated into the decisions to the maximum extent possible; your decisions will be implemented.
Sample Techniques	Info Sheet / Website	Public Comment / Focus Groups / Surveys / Public Meetings	Workshops / Deliberative Polling / Summit	Advisory Committees / Consensus Building / Participatory decision making

Proposed Participation Strategy for the development of the New Regional Plan

Stakeholder Group	Level of Participation	Method
CVRPC Board of Commissioners	Involve	Surveys and workshops held at regular board meetings
Regional Plan Committee	Collaborate	Regular meetings
TAC	Consult	Regular meetings
Other RPC Committees	Consult	Regular meetings
Municipal Officials, Boards, Committee's + Representatives plus Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD)	Inform / Consult	Website, weekly news blast, newsletters, RPC education + training opportunities, submission of annual town reports, and flyers at town meeting day (2021)

Secondary Partners	Consult	Surveys, focus groups/interviews
Secondary Audience	Inform	Website, weekly news blast, newsletters, press releases
Content Experts	Consult	Request feedback on draft plan chapters

Tentative Timeline



New Regional Plan

Vision + Aspirations

Vision

Central Vermont is a place where people and commerce thrive and innovate, the health of the natural environment and residents' quality of life are highly valued, and local communities are equipped to plan for and respond to emerging trends and unexpected challenges.

Aspirations

1. Steward a strong **culture of cooperative planning** with residents working together to find solutions to sustaining the vitality of local communities and high quality of life enjoyed in our Region.
2. Foster a **prosperous, equitable, and adaptable economy** that will provide full employment in a broad range of occupations at a livable wage.
3. Preserve an **economically viable working landscape** of farms and forests, with increased local food production and access to healthy food.
4. Protect **ecologically functioning natural systems** and sustainably manage natural resources including wildlife, habitat and water resources.
5. Minimize contribution to a **changing climate** and be prepared to mitigate impacts from increased natural hazards.
6. Ensure a **range of housing choices** that are high quality, safe and attractive, and provide affordable options for all residents.
7. Accommodate the availability of **reliable and affordable energy** supplies, increased energy efficiency, and diverse renewable energy resources and facilities.
8. Preserve the **rural character and unique historic settlements** with thriving downtown and village centers serving as cultural and economic hubs.
9. Guide construction and maintenance of **cost-effective infrastructure** that supports desired growth patterns, public health and environmental sustainability.
10. Stimulate a **healthy, active and connected population** in communities that work for all residents.
11. Provide an **integrated, regional transportation system** that encourages various modes of travel.

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES
February 11, 2020

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 type="checkbox"/>	Barre Town	Byron Atwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Northfield	Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		George Clain, 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 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	Alison Duckworth
<input 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	Carol Chamberlin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<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, Pam DeAndrea

Guests: Danielle Owczarski, VT Department of Environmental Conservation; Charlie Baker, Mike O'Brien, and Eleni Churchill, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission; Rob ???, Berlin resident

Call to Order

Chair Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None

Public Comments

None

Draft Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan

Hill-Eubanks introduced Danielle Owczarski, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Owczarski advised this is a 'pre-draft', which allows additional time for commenting. This Basin 14 plan impacts the headwaters in the towns of Orange and Washington. She provided detail of the existing natural resources that affect the watershed as well details on past storm events and damage done. She reiterated that mitigating the impacts of climate change is an overarching goal of the 2020 Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan. She advised of the State's Climate Change webpage. A link will be included on

1 CVRPC's website. Pollutants that may end up in streams as result of major storm events (items stored in
2 garages and basements) also were discussed.

3
4 Owczarski provided details regarding the draft, how it is organized, and sectors (agriculture, developed
5 lands – stormwater, developed lands – roads, wastewater, and natural resource restoration). Plan
6 targets and priorities for Orange and Washington were highlighted. Discussion on protection ensued
7 and the town's role in identifying how it wants specific waters protected, and how waters may fall on
8 the scale when and if reclassified. There was question if DEC reviews municipal plans for consistency
9 with the basin. Owczarski said DEC looks to RPC's to assist with to ensure there are no conflicts. There
10 was question if the basin plan affects DEC's issuing of permits for the spraying of whey and manure. She
11 advised these plans do not affect permitting, and discussed opportunities and challenges to address
12 these types of issues between DEC and the Agency of Agriculture.

13
14 There was a question raised on the status of floodplain maps. Many are outdated and municipalities
15 need them for regulatory maps. It was confirmed that the maps are updated by FEMA and that they are
16 working on updates for some areas of Vermont.

17
18 The basin plan timeline was provided. A final draft is anticipated by the end of March at which time
19 public meetings will be scheduled. The completion date is anticipated to be the end of June.

20 21 **Interstate 89 2050 Study**

22 Charlie Baker, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, advised that they are in the first round
23 of public meetings for the I-89 2050 Traffic Study. He outlined participants involved in this study. He
24 noted they are seeking input at all levels – Board, municipality, and individual.

25
26 Eleni Churchill provided additional details on the project outlining the tasks. Currently, they are working
27 on corridor vision and goals (Task 3) with a timeline to provide a final report by November 2021. There
28 will be extensive public outreach through the project, which includes the entire I-89 corridor in
29 Chittenden County (37 miles and 7 interchanges). She provided details on the different areas that are
30 being taken into consideration - capacity, safety, deficiencies, resources, connectivity.

31
32 Input was then requested from members related to their experiences with I-89. Multiple topics were
33 raised including potential impact from climate refugees, mass transit considerations, housing
34 affordability, dispersing economic activity outside of Chittenden County into other areas that need
35 growth, interaction between municipal and regional energy and transportation plans and addressing the
36 90% by 2050 renewable energy goals, as well as feasibility of tolls on the interstate.

37
38 The 2050 Vision for the I-89 Corridor through Chittenden County is an interstate system (mainline and
39 interchanges) that is safe and resilient and provides for reliable and efficient movement of people and
40 goods in alignment with state, regional, and municipal plans.

41 42 **Commission Appointments**

43 Hill-Eubanks advised Commissioners that Janet Shatney had agreed to chair the Nominating Committee;
44 and Michael Gray and Richard Turner have indicated a willingness to serve on the Committee.

1
2 *R. Wernecke moved to appoint Janet Shatney, Michael Gray and Rich Turner to the Nominating*
3 *Committee; P. Carbee seconded. Discussion ensued regarding the process. It was concurred it was the*
4 *correct one. Motion carried.*
5

6 **Central Vermont Regional Plan Amendment**

7 Rock advised the Regional Plan Committee is proposing two amendments to the Regional Plan - one to
8 the housing chapter with removal of the Housing Distribution Plan and an amendment to the future land
9 use map with regard to a regional center boundary.
10

11 With regard to removal of the Housing Distribution Plan, it is recommended due to the projected
12 forecast being outdated and no longer relevant. The requirement is no longer applicable to local efforts.
13 Municipalities seeking plan approval are no longer asked to meet this regionally-imposed requirement.
14

15 Lotspeich spoke in support of the amendment.
16

17 With regard to the future land use map, the amendment is being recommended as the *Regional Center*
18 planning area around Montpelier doesn't align with the new State-designated growth area. Alignment
19 will ensure compatibility of future planned development between the Regional Plan and the City of
20 Montpelier Plan and the goals of the State Growth Center Program.
21

22 The impetus behind this change goes back to when Montpelier renewed its State growth center
23 designation. CVRPC staff reviewed the regional center in the Regional Plan and discovered there was
24 not an alignment. Criteria was outlined for why this amendment was considered and what the current
25 boundary vs. the proposed boundary is for Regional Center.
26

27 Significant discussion ensued regarding the boundaries and if there was consideration of environmental
28 impacts. It was confirmed there are currently some undeveloped areas that are designated as areas
29 identified for accommodating new growth into the future. This does not negate any of the policies in
30 the Regional Plan natural resources section. The Regional Plan Committee determined the permitting
31 process and review of the Project Review Committee would still require that any proposed development
32 would be in alignment with other policies. There was also discussion as to why there are boundaries in
33 the Regional Plan that go outside Montpelier's growth center boundaries. Rock said those boundaries
34 had previously been designated in the Regional Plan as appropriate for regional growth. It was also
35 confirmed that Montpelier's growth center was approved by the State.
36

37 Waninger explained that Vermont statute envisions an iterative process with plans. Local plans must be
38 in conformance with regional plans, and regional plans when being changed must be in conformance
39 with local plans. Neither needs to exactly reflect each other as municipalities are planning at a local
40 level and the Commission at a regional level. A municipality may determine a large area is for growth,
41 but different kinds of growth. Plans include maps and narrative used in conjunction with the maps.
42 There are no narrative descriptions being recommended for change, only the map.
43

Rock clarified that there was no request from Montpelier to make this change. She clarified that the action requested was to approve moving the amendments to the public hearing process for public comment. Consideration of adoption would occur after the hearing and any response to comments.

B. Arrand moved to approve amendments to the 2016 Regional Plan as recommended by the Regional Plan Committee and set public hearing date for the amendment process; D La Haye seconded. Significant discussion ensued regarding adoption vs. approval to move to public hearing. It was confirmed that this vote did not approve the amendments, but rather d them forward for the public hearing process. Additional discussion ensued on the housing element and if additional changes would be incorporated following the 2020 Census. It was confirmed this would be addressed in the process of updating the Regional Plan. Additional clarification of the language being moved was requested. The motion was read back "to approve the amendments to the Regional Plan as recommended by the Regional Plan Committee and set public hearing date for amendment process". After additional discussion, a friendly amendment was suggested by J. Brabant which was ultimately framed as the Board "approves the amendment as recommended being advanced to public hearing". B. Arrand and D. La Haye accept the amendment. A vote was called, and the motion as amended carried.

Waninger further advised there need to be two public hearings. Hearings for a plan amendment must be warned for 30 days. The first hearing will be held in April. The second hearing may be held in May.

Meeting Minutes

R. Wernecke moved to approve the minutes as prepared; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.

Reports

Waninger advised that the GMT Board has voted to send public transit service changes to public hearing. She will forward additional information to affected communities. Proposed service changes identified are:

- Route 2 Commuter service moving from GMT to RCT. Both provider currently runs service
- City Commuter (Barre-Montpelier) service reduction to eliminate the first and last runs of the day due to low ridership.
- Barre Link and Waterbury Commuter service will combine two busses back to one bus.
- Additional volunteer recruitment will be pursued for drivers and service efficiencies are expected to be achieved by right-sizing the fleet to actual ridership.

She advised these changes will be put in CVRPC's e-news and notices will be sent to municipalities.

Adjournment

D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 9:01 pm; R. Wernecke seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

P: 802-229-0389

Staff Report, February 2020

F: 802-223-1977

LAND USE PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**Municipal Planning & Plan Implementation:**

- Developed Town Plan maps for Plainfield and continued support on its municipal plan update.
- Updated Montpelier's river corridor map for the North Branch.
- Coordinated support with Roxbury during its update to their municipal plan.
- Began discussing Neighborhood Development Area Designation for Berlin.
- Provide municipal adoption requirement with Barre Town.
- Provided comments on Calais draft flood hazard and river corridor regulations.
- Consulted with Barre Area Development regarding CVRPC and State assistance to Hard Rock Granite. The business experienced a devastating fire.
- Spoke at Municipal Planning Grant press conference. Focus was on Central Vermont awards to Berlin, Middlesex, and Waitsfield.
- Met with VT Council on Rural Development regarding intersections of Barre City Community Visit with Working Communities project and THRIVE Transportation Collaborative Action Network project.

Training & Education:

- Continued planning for March weatherization roundtable. Guest speakers are Waterbury LEAP and Capstone Community Action.
- Began planning for Town Meeting tabling for Energy Efficiency Rebates.
- Provided comments on DHCD-commissioned "Zoning for Great Neighborhoods - DRAFT Guide to Incremental Housing Code Reform". Participated in RPC/DHCD meeting about Draft Guide.

Regional Planning and Implementation:

- Met with Let's Grow Kids, a childcare advocacy group, to continue discussion of municipal and regional approaches to addressing childcare challenges in Central Vermont.
- Met with CVEDC, Downstreet Housing and Community Development, Montpelier Housing Task Force, Mad River Valley Planning District, VT Agency of Human Services, and VT Interfaith Action of Central Vermont to continue development of a regional housing summit.
- Met with Mad River Valley Housing Coalition staff to discuss housing work and future collaboration.
- Continued development of regional recreation and economic development map. Attended USDA Rural Business Development Grant applicant workshop and conducted informational interviews with regional and state groups.
- Began Regional Plan data development for each chapter.
- Meet with Tom Sexton of Rails to Trails to discuss connection of Lamoille Valley Rail Trail in Cabot with Cross Vermont Trail in Marshfield.
- Discussed Regional Plan amendment and Montpelier Growth Center Designation with Montpelier Planning Director. Invited Director to present to the Board about Montpelier's planning process.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Local/Regional Planning:

- Attended SERC/LEPC liaison meeting and SERC meeting to hear about possible Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) consolidation.
- Participated in monthly RPC/VEM call. Learned about Individual and Family Needs Task Force.
- Hosted Emergency Management Directors (EMDs) roundtable with VEM.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP): Contact Grace Vinson, vinson@cvregion.com, for assistance. Staff supported communities in the development, review, and adoption of local hazard mitigation plans.

Calais – Met with Calais Selectboard to discuss the project, a potential planning team, and a Memorandum of Agreement for local match.

Moretown – Received final approval from VEM. Awaiting final approval from FEMA.

Washington – Met with planning team to discuss public engagement opportunities, a schedule, a plan template, and worksheets the team will complete to contribute local information.

Montpelier - Met with Fire Chief and City staff to kick off LHMP process.

Plainfield- Updated draft plan to address VEM comments and provided to Plainfield for final review.

Williamstown – Submitted revised plan to Planning Commission Chair for final approval. Plan awaiting Selectboard review ahead of final submission to VEM for Approval Pending Adoption.

TRANSPORTATION

Field Services: Contact Ashley Andrews, Andrews@cvregion.com, to be put on a list for 2020 counts and inventories.

Traffic Counts: 2019 Season is complete

Ash Tree Inventories: No active inventories.

Bike and Ped Counters: Conducting pedestrian counts for Montpelier.

Transportation Studies:

Cabot Trail Planning (Municipal Planning Grant): Meet with Trail Committee to review project and discuss potential phases. Started drafting final report.

Transportation Resilience Planning Tool: Awaiting data from UVM, which is calculating criticality on structures or road segments. Once criticality data is shared with CVRPC, road importance will be incorporated into the model and updated vulnerability and criticality maps will be developed for outreach meetings to communities.

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.

General Manager Search Committee – Consulted with search firm regarding interview week needs and planning. Updated interview week schedule to adapt to stakeholder and GMT needs. Prepared interview question survey and meeting date survey for Search Committee.

GMT Board of Commissioners Chair Role Activities:

- Consulted with Interim General Manager on employee complaint to EEOC; complaint subsequently was dismissed by EEOC.
- Briefed by GMT attorney on legal issues in progress.
- Worked with Burlington Commissioner to plan inclusion and diversity panel discussion for March Board meeting.
- Met with GMT staff to plan Board discussion about service changes.
- Discussed organizational policy and procedure regarding grant application submission with Interim General Manager. Developed a path for application submission and Board approval.
- Help phone consultation with consultant providing GMT coaching on Board and organizational development. Outlined GMT Board retreat agenda.

Other Transit Activities:

- Facilitated REDPAC Community Partner Pilot meeting to discuss pilot, budget, and incorporation new partners.
- Distributed 700 surveys to users of the region's Elderly and Persons with Disability Transit services. Upon receipt of completed surveys, entered them into the online portal for the Elderly and Disabled survey.
- Facilitated a meeting of Elderly and Persons with Disability Committee to review a draft new community patterns guide.
- Discussed proposed transit system changes with Montpelier Assistant City Manager.

Municipal Assistance:

- Assisted Roxbury with research for structures grants and district paving funding.
- Met with Northfield and Orange to review and update Road Service Management Software data.
- Consulted with Barre City, Representative Peter Anthony, and VTrans staff regarding funding options for Bridge 308, a railroad trestle over the Stevens Branch. The trestle's piles exacerbate flooding. The bridge is on a rail siding and is no longer used due to its deteriorated condition.
- Responded to Rt. 2/Main Street intersection project request for assistance. This VTrans-funded project would lower the intersection grade, realign the intersection, and add a traffic light to improve traffic flow and enhance intersection safety. Held calls with VTrans Project Manager, VT Council on Rural Development, and Selectboard Chair. Met with RAMP workgroup regarding potential CVRPC assistance for project manager services. Recommended the community consider its short-term (intersection) and long-term (village vitality) needs and consider creative solutions and USDA funding to keeping businesses vibrant if Main Street bridge is closed.
- Discussed trip generation assessment for Berlin New Town Center planning with VTrans. Trip generation data would assist with projecting highway and intersection upgrades so that they can occur as development happens, rather than in response to congestion and intersection failure.
- Participated in Mad River Valley Transportation Advisory Committee meeting to discuss CVRPC transportation and transit initiatives and GMT updates.

Regional Activities:

- Participated in the Green Mountain Byways Committee meeting and discussed website options with a web development company.
- Presented on the new VPSP2 modernization and expansion project qualification sheet at the monthly transportation meeting of the RPC planners and VTrans staff.

- Attended the VPSP2 working group meeting for a discussion of the testing and implementation timeline along with the project white paper.
- Reviewed Transportation Alternative Grant application as part of VTrans Grant Review Committee.

NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Tactical Basin Planning Assistance:

- Began review of the Basin 14 Tactical Basin Plan.
- Continued project development with Winooski Basin Planner, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, Friends of the Winooski River, and the Friends of the Mad River for projects within the Winooski River Basin.

Design Implementation Block Grant Program (formerly Clean Water Block Grant Program): Funding for projects >\$20,000 is now available for implementation of clean water projects. Significant changes in the program include no match requirement, and the municipality may be the direct applicant/grantee for these projects. All projects must be completed and closed out prior to December 31, 2021. If your town's project is ready for implementation funding, please contact Pam DeAndrea at deandrea@cvregion.com to determine eligibility.

The CVRPC has finalizing contracts for 4 stormwater mitigation final design projects being funded through this program. Two projects are located in Calais and two in Woodbury. The projects emerged as high priority projects in the Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plan. The Kingsbury Branch is part of the Winooski River and Lake Champlain watersheds. Improving stormwater runoff through these projects will count towards phosphorus load reductions for Central Vermont.

The Health Center, Plainfield Stormwater Final Design: This gully stabilization project emerged from the Plainfield Stormwater Master Plan. The consultant completed the final design for this project. Staff attended a Plainfield Selectboard meeting to discuss the final plans and answer questions. Implementation funding will be sought in FY21 or FY22.

Berlin Stormwater Final Designs: Watershed Consulting Associates (WCA) and Civil Engineering Associates (CEA) completed the 60% designs for the three sites: Berlin Elementary School, Chimney Sweep, and Berlin Fire Station. The team met with the Town Administrator and Fire Chief to discuss the designs and will be meeting with school officials and the Berlin Selectboard in March to present the designs and solicit feedback. The final designs are expected to be completed in May 2020.

Moretown Elementary School Stormwater Final Design: CVRPC has finalized a contract with the VT DEC for a final design for stormwater treatment at the Moretown Elementary School and Town Offices. This project was a high priority in the Mad River Stormwater Master Plan. The School and Town have been searching for funding to remedy stormwater issues at the site for several years. The main treatment proposed is a gravel wetland along with improvements around the school to move stormwater away from the school. Stormwater contributes to flooding in classrooms. Once implemented, this project will enable the community to remedy the stormwater problem.

Woodbury Elementary School & Fire Department Annex Stormwater Final Design:

CVRPC has finalized a contract with the VT DEC for a final design for stormwater treatment at the Woodbury Elementary School and adjacent Fire Department Annex (also known as the Woodbury Food Shelf building). This project was listed as a high priority in the Kingsbury Branch Stormwater Master Plan. This unique project is two stormwater treatments in one project as stormwater runoff from one site partly affects the other site. The proposed treatment includes a gravel wetland on the school property to address road runoff and stormwater from part of the school parking lot and the school building roofs. The other treatment on the Annex site will be a subsurface infiltration chamber that will treat additional stormwater from the road and the school parking lot to prevent it from washing into the nearby Kingsbury Branch. Staff issued a request for scope of work and cost estimates. Consultant activities are expected to start in May, with the final designs completed by spring 2021.

604b: Staff met with the Friends of the Winooski River (FWR) to discuss its preferred format for a web based map that depicts FWR water quality monitoring sites and with links to its monitoring results. Staff will meet with the Friends of the Mad River in March to evaluate its web map needs.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**Partnerships for Progress:**

THRIVE – Held telephone meeting with co-chairs of Transportation Collaborative Action Network (CAN) to discuss the meeting agenda and potential actions. Met with community member to discuss THRIVE Transportation Community Action Network (CAN) work and other CVRPC transportation initiatives.

Working Communities Challenge: Participated in introductory call for Vermont grantees. Prepared grant paperwork and budget for contract. Advised Core team members of upcoming work session details and registration process.

OFFICE & ANNOUNCEMENTS**Office:**

- Responded to public records request regarding Montpelier TIF District map development.
- Prepared FY20 budget adjustment and began FY21 workplan and budget development.
- Responded to architect's draft plan for potential new office space in Barre. Met with current landlord regarding office renovation planning. CVRPC's current lease expires September 2021. Staff is researching options for the Executive Committee's consideration.
- Provided VAPDA with summary of CVRPC's work with Central Vermont Medical Center. VAPDA representative was presenting to VT Hospital Association about RPC partnerships and support.
- Prepared Transportation Planning Initiative budget adjustment for submission to VTrans.
- Participated in an informational interview with a planner seeking a best-fit position.
- Developed CVRPC examples of inter-municipal activities/projects for upcoming DHCD municipal Best Practices Guide.
- Reviewed proposed contract amendment for Forest Integrity grant. The Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation is offering CVRPC an additional \$35,000 to develop an informational sheet describing ways municipalities can support the wood products industry (thereby maintaining a working forest

landscape) and to provide direct assistance to municipalities in meeting the requirements of Act 171. CVRPC will pass \$21,000 of those funds to other RPCs to achieve statewide assistance to municipalities. CVRPC past effectiveness in working with Duxbury, East Montpelier, Marshfield, Plainfield, and Waterbury encouraged the Department to invest additional funds in direct assistance to municipalities.

Professional Development/Leadership:

- Clare participated in a Vermont Planners Association Professional Sub-Committee conference call to plan for a spring GIS/mapping workshop/training.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

March

Mar 2	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 9	1 pm	ICS 402, Municipal Building, 149 Websterville Road, Barre
Mar 10	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Mar 12	10 am	Personnel Policy Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 12	4 pm	Clean Water Advisory Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 17	4 pm	Regional Plan Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 19	7 pm	Mad River Valley Planning District, MRVPD Office, Waitsfield
Mar 23	2 pm	Personnel Policy Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 24	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Mar 26	9 am	Annual State Training and Exercise Planning Workshop, VEM, Waterbury
Mar 26	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Mar 26	5:30 pm	Central Vermont Home Efficiency Roundtable, Middlesex Town Office
Mar 31	6 pm	Planning & Zoning Roundtable, CVRPC Office

April

Apr 1	10 am	Central Vermont Job Fair, Barre Auditorium
Apr 6	4 pm	Executive Committee, CVRPC Office
Apr 14	6:30 pm	Board of Commissioners, Central VT Chamber, Berlin
Apr 16	7 pm	Mad River Valley Planning District, MRVPD Office, Waitsfield
Apr 28	4 pm	Project Review Committee, CVRPC Office
Apr 28	6:30 pm	Transportation Advisory Committee, 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
February 2020

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

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

- Authorized signature of three agreements
 - Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission – 2019 Design/Implementation Block Grant, Woodbury/Calais Final Designs.
 - VT Department of Public Safety – Emergency Management Performance Grant FFY19 Amendment #1
 - MVP – Flexible Spending Account Plan (FSA)
- Approved revisions to the FFY20 Transportation Planning Budget Initiative adjustment 1.
- Authorized the Chair to sign a Letter of Support for a FY21 VISTA member
- Adopted an FY20 Budget Adjustment. The adjustment reflected new contracts, 12/31 actuals, and project progress.
- Reviewed an initial draft of the FY21 Budget.
- Approved a revised March Commission meeting agenda.
- Reviewed a revised schedule for the Executive Director's annual personnel evaluation.

PERSONNEL POLICY COMMITTEE (A sub-committee of the Executive Committee)

- Appointed Julie Potter as Committee Chair.
- Reviewed objectives for this update, which is intended to address comments received from CVRPC's attorney, changes to state law, and other issues that have risen since the last update.
- Reviewed the list of issues raised by attorneys / other parties. Discussed differences between policies, procedures, and guidance.
- Identified issues that require additional research, including marijuana (addressing state and federal law), compensatory time policy, wage range updates, and benefits summary. Requested staff provide examples of how other RPCs have address differences between state and federal law related to marijuana. Requested staff draft language related to compensatory time policy changes, research wage ranges (VAPDA survey, VLCT survey, CCRPC compensation study, State of VT positions), and update the Summary Description of Benefits. Staff will request legal citations from the attorney regarding changes to VT law.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (February and March; scheduled by Committee)

Did not meet.

PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE (4th Thursday, 4pm)

Did not meet.

REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE (as needed; scheduled by Committee)

The committee reviewed a draft Vision statement and accompanying overarching goals, which will be referred to as aspirations. The vision statement is based upon the vision statement which was drafted and reviewed during the *Plan Central Vermont* process, but it has been shortened based upon information provided by staff and feedback from the committee. The committee will share this with the Board at the March meeting and will be seeking feedback. The committee is also in the process of creating a reference document which will provide a summary of the plan development process. This will also be shared with the Board.

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

Did not meet.

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

- Completed initial review for Project Prioritization.
- Approved TPI Budget Adjustment update.
- Reviewed GMT proposed service changes.

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)

- Discussed basin planning with Karen Bates of the VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR).
- Discussed revisions to the draft letter to ANR for Board of Commissioner review.
- Provided Committee with the Clean Water Service Provider draft RFP and advised CVRPC is considering submitting a proposal.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

- Presentation by Sec. Lindsay Kerrle and Dept. Sec Ted Brady on Agency of Commerce proposed legislative initiatives. ACCD budget includes \$150,000 for RPCs to work with municipalities on zoning updates to encourage housing development.
- Presentation by Megan Sullivan, Executive Director of the Vermont Economic Progress Council, about the Agency of Commerce's Project Based Economic Development initiative. It is intended to foster basic infrastructure that supports smaller economic development opportunities. It's a "TIF Light" to allow smaller communities to identify a public need transportation, water, wastewater, brownfields, etc. - that would benefit a private investment. This program funds a gap, not the whole project. The project must be a catalyzing project that moves private investment forward.
- Made the following appointments to State committees:
 - Transportation Alternatives Program – Rob Moore, LCPC
 - Public Transit Advisory Council – Bonnie Waninger, CVRPC
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Review Committee – Kevin Geiger, TRORC, and Grace Vinson, CVRPC

- Agency of Agriculture has updated its cost of conservation and offsite agricultural mitigation based on VHCB closings on conservation easements. New costs are posted on the Agency's Criteria 9B webpage. Increases in Districts 1,6,7,9; decreases in District's 2,3,5; stable in 4, 8.
- Vermont Geographic Information Center (VCGI) reported the statewide parcel mapping program is completed. All municipalities are covered. VCGI would like to formalize agreements for RPCs to update maps.
- Act 38 required licensed land surveyors who produce the surveys to submit digital copies to the State in pdf format. They are available at <https://landsurvey.vermont.gov/>. If a municipality has questions about bylaw updates and this issue, VCGI willing to assist.
- Presentation by Representative Brian Cina on H.686, the Regenerative Economy. The bill proposes to require the State to develop a regenerative economy roadmap by 2023. regenerative economy is an economic system that works to regenerate natural and human resources. A regenerative economy will transition away from practices that engage in extraction of natural resources and will instead advance ecological restoration and protect biodiversity by both protecting and regenerating natural resources. The bill charges RPCs with assisting their respective region by facilitating a "People's Assembly," the body charged with drafting the plan.

VERMONT ECONOMIC PROGRESS COUNCIL

No activities from Central Vermont.

GREEN MOUNTAIN TRANSIT

- Presentation of the FY19 audit. Tabled acceptance of the audit pending finalization of the recommendations by the auditor.
- Approved initiating the public process on potential service changes. See memo sent via email on 02/24/20.
- Held panel and discussion on furthering fairness and diversity. Panelists included Xusana Davis, State Director of Racial Equity; Cathie Pelchat, Vermont FoodBank; Curtis Reed, VT Partnership for Fairness and Diversity; and Captain Gary Scott, Vermont State Police. Panelists discussed their individual roles in relation to fairness and diversity in their workplaces. The panelists insight and Board discussion were designed to assist the Board to consider how to enhance inclusion and diversity at GMT and for its customers.

MAD RIVER VALLEY PLANNING DISTRICT

- Presentation by Liza Walker, VT Land Trust, on the role and history of Vermont Land Trust (VLT) & Mad River Watershed Conservation Partnership (MRWCP). \$2.3 million has been invested in land conservation since 1999.
- Presentation by Liza Walker on the Mad River Valley Recreation District. The District was established in 1994 as Union Municipal District. It operated primarily as a granting entity until 2017 when the Mad River Park was purchased. MRVRD acts as a convener of disparate rec-related groups in MRV.
- Discussed potential application to participate in the VCRD Climate Economy Model Communities Program. Elected not to participate due to other priorities.

June 22, 2018

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Ms. Judith C. Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Beckley Hill Solar, LLC - Designation as "Preferred Site" under Rule 5.103

Dear Ms. Whitney:

Beckley Hill Solar, LLC has proposed a 500 kW ground mounted group net-metered solar array to be sited on 3.1 acres (\pm) of an approximately 17-acre parcel of land located at 260 Beckley Hill Road in Barre, Vermont ("the Project"). The applicant has requested that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) provide a letter of identifying the Project site as a Preferred Site in accordance with the Vermont Public Utility Commission's Net Metering Rule 5.103.

Beckley Hill Solar, LLC issued its 45 Day Advanced Notice for the Project on May 10, 2018, and presented the proposed Project at the CVRPC's Project Review Committee meeting on June 21, 2018.

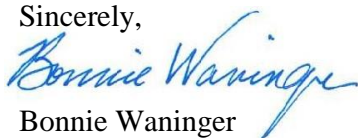
The definition of a "Preferred Site" under PUC Rule 5.103 (7) includes "a specific location that is identified in a joint letter of support from the municipal legislative body and municipal and regional planning commissions in the community where the net-metering system will be located."

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Project Review Committee reviewed the information provided by the applicant. Based on this review, the CVRPC provides an affirmative designation identifying the Project site as a "Preferred Site" under Net Metering Rule 5.103.

In making this determination, the CVRPC does not take a position certifying or approving the Project's compliance with any other applicable provisions of the Central Vermont Regional Plan. CVRPC reserves the right to review and comment on this Project's conformance with the Central Vermont Regional Plan and policies that have been adopted by the CVRPC Board of Commissioners when the full petition is submitted.

Please feel free to contact the CVRPC if you need additional information or clarification on any of the above information.

Sincerely,



Bonnie Waninger
Executive Director

June 22, 2018

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Ms. Judith C. Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Re: Grandview Solar, LLC - Designation as "Preferred Site" under Rule 5.103

Dear Ms. Whitney:

Grandview Solar, LLC has proposed a 500 kW ground mounted group net-metered solar array to be sited on 4.3 acres (\pm) of an approximately 46-acre parcel of land located at 50 Grandview Drive in Barre, Vermont ("the Project"). The applicant has requested that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) provide a letter of identifying the Project site as a Preferred Site in accordance with the Vermont Public Utility Commission's Net Metering Rule 5.103.

Grandview Solar, LLC issued its 45 Day Advanced Notice for the Project on May 10, 2018, and presented the proposed Project at the CVRPC's Project Review Committee meeting on June 21, 2018.

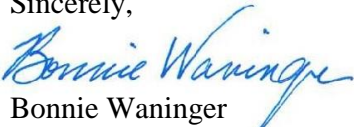
The definition of a "Preferred Site" under PUC Rule 5.103 (7) includes "a specific location that is identified in a joint letter of support from the municipal legislative body and municipal and regional planning commissions in the community where the net-metering system will be located."

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Project Review Committee reviewed the information provided by the applicant. Based on this review, the CVRPC provides an affirmative designation identifying the Project site as a "Preferred Site" under Net Metering Rule 5.103.

In making this determination, the CVRPC does not take a position certifying or approving the Project's compliance with any other applicable provisions of the Central Vermont Regional Plan. CVRPC reserves the right to review and comment on this Project's conformance with the Central Vermont Regional Plan and policies that have been adopted by the CVRPC Board of Commissioners when the full petition is submitted.

Please feel free to contact the CVRPC if you need additional information or clarification on any of the above information.

Sincerely,


Bonnie Waninger
Executive Director

September 17, 2018

Ms. Judith C. Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Re: Elmore Road, Worcester, VT - Designation as "Preferred Site" under Rule 5.103

Dear Ms. Whitney:

SolarSense is proposing a 500 kW ground mounted group net-metered solar array to be sited on 3 acres (\pm) of an 156.3 acre-parcel of land located at 66 Elmore Road, Worcester, Vermont ("the Project"). The applicant has requested that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) provide a letter of identifying the Project site as a Preferred Site in accordance with the Vermont Public Utility Commission's Net Metering Rule 5.103.

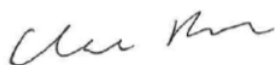
The definition of a "Preferred Site" under PUC Rule 5.103 (7) includes "a specific location that is identified in a joint letter of support from the municipal legislative body and municipal and regional planning commissions in the community where the net-metering system will be located."

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Project Review Committee has considered the request and reviewed the information provided by the applicant. Based on this review, the CVRPC provides an affirmative designation identifying the Project site as a "Preferred Site" under Net Metering Rule 5.103.

In making this determination the CVRPC does not take a position certifying or approving the Project's compliance with any other applicable provisions of the Central Vermont Regional Plan and reserves the right to review and comment on this project's conformance with the Central Vermont Regional Plan and policies that have been adopted by the CVRPC Board of Commissioners when the full petition is submitted.

Please feel free to contact the CVRPC if you need additional information or clarification on any of the above information.

Sincerely,



Clare Rock
Senior Planner

October 30, 2018

Ms. Judith C. Whitney, Clerk
Vermont Public Utility Commission
112 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Re: Rood Pond Road, Williamstown, VT - Designation as "Preferred Site" under Rule 5.103

Dear Ms. Whitney:

Novus Energy Development LLC is proposing a 150 kW ground mounted group net-metered solar array to be sited on 1 acres (\pm) of the Town Water Tank property, located off Rood Pond Road in Williamstown, Vermont ("the Project"). The applicant has requested that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) provide a letter of identifying the Project site as a Preferred Site in accordance with the Vermont Public Utility Commission's Net Metering Rule 5.103.

The definition of a "Preferred Site" under PUC Rule 5.103 (7) includes "a specific location that is identified in a joint letter of support from the municipal legislative body and municipal and regional planning commissions in the community where the net-metering system will be located."

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission's Project Review Committee has considered the request and reviewed the information provided by the applicant during their meeting on October 25, 2018. Based on this review, the CVRPC provides an affirmative designation identifying the Project site as a "Preferred Site" under Net Metering Rule 5.103.

In making this determination the CVRPC does not take a position certifying or approving the Project's compliance with any other applicable provisions of the Central Vermont Regional Plan and reserves the right to review and comment on this project's conformance with the Central Vermont Regional Plan and policies that have been adopted by the CVRPC Board of Commissioners when the full petition is submitted.

Please feel free to contact the CVRPC if you need additional information or clarification on any of the above information.

Sincerely,



Clare Rock
Senior Planner

Cc: Mr. Alex Bravakis, Novus Williamstown Solar LLC

January 15, 2020

VIA E-MAIL

Mr. Josh Donabedian, District Coordinator
District 5, 6 & 9 Environmental Commission
10 Baldwin Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-3201

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

RE: Application 5W0584-19 - Spruce Place LLC

Dear Mr. Donabedian,

The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) has reviewed the above referenced application and has determined the proposed project is of Substantial Regional Impact as defined by the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan, amended 2018. Accordingly, CVRPC's Project Review Committee has met with the applicant, reviewed the application materials, and deliberated on the proposal's conformance with the above referenced Regional Plan.

The project is proposed to be located in a regionally identified Town Center planning area which are intended to accommodate *residential, civic, commercial and light industrial uses and serve as sub-regional retail and employment centers. Policies related to Town Center planning areas include:*

- *Support locating higher density residential, commercial, and industrial development in Town Center areas.*
- *Encourage infill, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings in Town Center areas.*
- *Set public funding priority for maintenance or improvement of [transportation] infrastructure supporting concentrated development, and for affordable housing and assisted living facilities development in Town Center areas.*

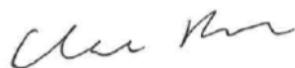
Additionally, as presented the proposal corresponds with the following Regional Plan goal:

Housing Goal: *To promote the development of housing opportunities for all residents of the Region, including and especially, affordable, elderly, and special needs housing.*

As such the CVRPC finds the proposed project to be in conformance with the 2016 Central Vermont Regional Plan, amended 2018. CVRPC's position on Application 5W0584-19 is contingent upon any modifications made to the proposal in the state and local permitting processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,



Clare Rock

Senior Planner

CC: Certificate of Service