

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**March 10, 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	Bram Towbin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Paula Emery, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Jerry D'Amico
<input type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Warren	Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alison Duckworth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" 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,

**Call to Order**

Chair Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business.

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

**Public Comments**

None

**Regional Planning**

Hill-Eubanks advised that the Regional Plan Committee (RPC) is looking for input as it pursues amendments to the current Regional Plan. Rock advised that this is a brainstorming session to share ideas so the RPC can document and address during the amendment process.

a) Municipal Needs, Challenges, and Successes Roundtable

The Board proceeded with an exercise of writing down and then sharing experiences they are seeing in their municipalities.

1  
2  
3 **Example of successes:**

4 Duxbury - grant to look at erosion projects throughout the town which was narrowed to most pertinent.

5 East Montpelier - putting in place a capital plan and budget process

6 Waterbury - 3 affordable housing projects as well as new section 8 housing

7 Protection of wildlife corridor (also a challenge)

8 Berlin – Town Center designation grant awarded

9 Water system improvements

10 Roxbury – the school merger has worked well for residents and is encouraging growth

11 Woodbury – proactive with MRGP in the past which has resulted in having their roads in good shape

12 Alleviation of some of the flooding issues in village

13 Waitsfield – well organized with MRVPD to help with their issues

14 Moretown – village sidewalks are to be installed this year – were able to leverage stormwater funding due to infrastructure needs for the sidewalks

15 Repaving of village and bridge replacement also planned for this summer

16 Large tracts of forested land going on the market at the same time which creates opportunities for utilization with regard to conservation – land donation was made to the town

17 Vitality in recreation committees and trail planning

18 Plainfield – dedicated grant writer that's gotten sidewalks, kiosks, etc.

19 Willingness for volunteer service

20 Williamstown – renewable energy and solar farm growth

21 LHMP process with RPC which opened up emergency services conversations in the town

22 Grant for EAB (WNRCD) mitigation (inventory and management plan)

23 Montpelier – downtown development zone and new growth

24 Involvement of Montpelier Alive

25 Orange – Brook Road and Reservoir Road to be reclassified to be a connector between 302 and 2 (along with Plainfield)

26 Barre City – does a good job with small staff – budget just passed

27 Worcester – recent survey showed they are on target in reserving natural aspects of the town – very few houses and jobs added, but that is how community wants it

32  
33 **Example of challenges:**

34 Duxbury: storm events, volunteer service and leadership

35 Infrastructure – community wastewater, broadband

36 East Montpelier - Inadequate village water supply and no village wastewater system

37 Affordable housing

38 Affordable employee health insurance

39 Financial impact of maintaining ambulance service

40 Washington – no wastewater system

41 Affordable housing

42 Old dam that needs removal

43 Need to maintain the rural characteristics of the town

44 Barre Town – Town Plan Goals were reiterated – including, growth is likely and desirable and should be

1 managed so as not to burden capacity of public resources; town should encourage economic  
2 development, growth and development should be planned and managed to respect natural resources,  
3 growth and development should be balanced among residential, industrial and commercial uses, valued  
4 resources and their preservation should be balanced with other considerations, flash flooding is a  
5 primary concern.  
6 Waterbury – more reliability on renewable energy  
7 Traffic congestion off exit 10  
8 Effectively addressing drug and alcohol use in community  
9 Affordable housing to serve their employment center  
10 Northfield – cost of roads and bridges  
11 Cost of police services  
12 Finances – lots of non-profits and large university that impact tax base  
13 Berlin – Housing impacts getting medical professionals into area  
14 Volunteers for town committees, fire department  
15 Master Plan needed for downtown designation  
16 Roxbury – volunteers for boards, fire department  
17 Keeping up with state mandates – i.e. stormwater requirements  
18 Municipal road upkeep – more funding necessary (perhaps block grants)  
19 Woodbury – service that helps community be connected to modern digital world (poor cell service,  
20 mediocre internet service)  
21 Substandard housing throughout town (old camps)  
22 Policing issues  
23 Public transportation (very limited due to location)  
24 Village limited for development due to flooding issues  
25 Waitsfield – health and safety and need for companies to have health and safety officers  
26 Housing impacts getting medical professionals into area  
27 Moretown – MRV schools and towns under unified board are trying to figure out how to use and  
28 optimize the current buildings to accommodate needs  
29 Costs of emergency services (pay four different providers currently)  
30 Economic development  
31 Marshfield – affordable housing  
32 Lack of volunteers for town services  
33 Trouble balancing business and conservation (conserved land) with regard to the impact on tax base  
34 Cabot – age in place and keep you here  
35 Squeezing out of small farms and homesteads  
36 Affordability (fix what is holding towns back in the regional plan)  
37 Barre Town – decommissioning (i.e. solar panels)  
38 Plainfield – old housing stock in the village  
39 Development in the village vs. other areas in town  
40 Volume and impact of vehicular traffic on Route 2  
41 Williamstown - Downtown business development  
42 Increased ATV traffic and using town roads to connect trails to enhance business development  
43 Since no zoning working to use ordinances to address some downtown issues  
44 Infrastructure – lots of stormwater runoff that needs maintenance – working on stormwater master

1 plan grant moving forward  
2 Youth engagement and volunteer services  
3 Montpelier – housing stock to house those who work in Montpelier  
4 Orange – small tax base – lots of conserved land  
5 Volunteers are almost non-existent  
6 Cell and internet service issues  
7 Implementation of tactical basin plans and administration is likely to be a challenge (insuring  
8 headwaters are protected) due to town size. Suggests a Regional Basin Commission vs. town  
9 administration.  
10 Barre City – aging infrastructure  
11 Transportation opportunities – Route 302 through City but doesn't get people to stop and take  
12 advantage of the city  
13 Affordable housing – lots of housing stock but not lots of great quality  
14 Lot of homelessness and poverty needs appropriate measures  
15 Flood resiliency and the rules and regulations related to that  
16 Changes to housing board of review  
17 No grocery store in the downtown  
18 Climate change and dependency on fossil fuels and impact on reaching 2050 goal  
19 Worcester – climate change  
20 No zoning  
21 Important to protect unfragmented forest blocks  
22 Preserving agricultural land for agriculture  
23 Finalizing Town Plan and alternative energy plan  
24  
25 George Clain of Barre Town addressed opening up another chapter in the Regional Plan addressing  
26 substance abuse and prevention to help with addressing the project region wide; and shared some  
27 statistics of the economic impact of the issue, both national and statewide. He requested the Executive  
28 Director try and get a seat at the table to have a say on where marijuana tax is going to be distributed  
29 statewide.  
30  
31 Waninger noted municipal finance issues and substance use issues were not on the table for Regional  
32 Plan in the past, but now are coming forward.  
33  
34 b) New Regional Plan Development Process and Draft Vision  
35  
36 Rock directed the Board to information in the packet and provided additional details regarding the  
37 Plan Development and Planning Process Guide. Current Regional Plan was written in 2003 and has  
38 gone through amendments and re-adoptions – with last amendment in 2016, it will expire in 2024.  
39 Rather than just updating the current plan the hope is to create a new plan. Plan Central Vermont  
40 was initiated a few years ago and lots of good work was done in that process, but it did not come to  
41 completion. A lot of the information from that process will be used in the development of a new  
42 Regional Plan.  
43  
44 Floor opened to questions on the guide. Public participation levels were clarified. Question as to

1 who would ultimately approve the new Regional Plan – Rock confirmed that the Board would be  
2 responsible for adopting a final plan.

3  
4 Workforce was brought up to be addressed as a region to encourage, attract, develop and retain a  
5 workforce. Also noted was a need for a statewide economic platform with a pro-business attitude.  
6 Comment was made that Schools need to stop communicating to students that out of state is  
7 where they will succeed. Trades schools need to be better utilized.

8  
9 As a second exercise, members were asked to “vote” with dots on the outlined aspirations as part  
10 of the Vision & Aspirations process. Staff will take the information and organize it at the RPC  
11 meeting upcoming next week.

12  
13 Gray commented that the exercise was good to show that many municipalities share common  
14 themes.

## 15 16 **Meeting Minutes**

17 *R. Wernecke moved to approve the minutes of February 11, 2020; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.*

## 18 19 **Reports**

20 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet.

## 21 22 **Adjournment**

23 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:17 pm; A. Quackenbush seconded. Motion carried.*

24  
25 **ADDENDUM:** Results of voting in second exercise are as follows:

- 26  
27 1. *Steward a strong **culture of cooperative planning** with residents working together to find*  
28 *solutions to sustaining the vitality of local communities and high quality of life enjoyed in our*  
29 *Region. **3 votes***
- 30  
31 2. *Foster a **prosperous, equitable, and adaptable economy** that will provide full employment in a*  
32 *broad range of occupations at a livable wage. **11 votes***
- 33  
34 3. *Preserve an **economically viable working landscape** of farms and forests, with increased local*  
35 *food production and access to healthy food. **10 votes***
- 36  
37 4. *Protect **ecologically functioning natural systems** and sustainably manage natural resources*  
38 *including wildlife, habitat and water resources. **13 votes***
- 39  
40 5. *Minimize contribution to a **changing climate** and be prepared to mitigate impacts from*  
41 *increased natural hazards. **7 votes***
- 42  
43 6. *Ensure a **range of housing choices** that are high quality, safe and attractive, and provide*  
44 *affordable options for all residents. **7 votes***

7. Accommodate the availability of **reliable and affordable energy** supplies, increased energy efficiency, and diverse renewable energy resources and facilities. **9 votes**
8. Preserve the **rural character and unique historic settlements** with thriving downtown and village centers serving as cultural and economic hubs. **9 votes**
9. Guide construction and maintenance of **cost-effective infrastructure** that supports desired growth patterns, public health and environmental sustainability. **8 votes**
10. Stimulate a **healthy, active and connected population** in communities that work for all residents. **7 votes**
11. Provide an **integrated, regional transportation system** that encourages various modes of travel. **6 votes**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager