

Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
June 10, 2014
Unapproved Minutes

Present were:

Barre City: Janet Shatney

Barre Town: Byron Atwood-absent
Mark Nicholson-absent

Berlin: Bob Wernecke

Cabot: Dick Payne

Calais: Renee Carpenter

Duxbury: Brian Fitzgerald

East Montpelier: Julie Potter
Tim Carver-absent

Fayston: Carol Chamberlin-absent

Marshfield: Faeterri Silver

Middlesex: Ronald Krauth

Montpelier: Tina Ruth
Kim Cheney-absent

Moretown: Dara Torre-absent

Northfield: Laura Hill-Eubanks

Orange: George Malek

Plainfield: David Strong

Robert Atchinson-absent

Roxbury: David McShane-absent

Waitsfield: Don La Haye

Harrison Snapp-absent

Warren: Craig Klofach-absent

Dan Raddock - absent

Washington: Gary Winders

Waterbury:

Williamstown: Larry Hebert

Woodbury:

Worcester: Bill Arrand

Staff: S. Sinclair, L. Emery, K. McKee, S. Smith, A. Norris, D. Currier

Others: A. Chandler

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

The minutes of the May 13, 2014 CVRPC meeting were accepted as written.

Election of Treasurer and At-Large Member of the Executive Committee: With the resignation of M. Miller, Barre City, as Treasurer due to his leaving Barre City and going to Montpelier, a treasurer needs to be elected to fill his unexpired term. Nominations were opened and David Strong, Plainfield, was nominated as Treasurer. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed. It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to elect David Strong as Treasurer.

The resignation of M. Miller from the Executive Committee and election of an existing Executive Committee member as Treasurer leaves the Executive Committee with six members rather than seven. Nominations were opened for an at-large member of the Executive Committee to fill the unexpired term of M. Miller. It was noted that all officer and Executive Committee member terms are for one year. Julie Potter, East Montpelier, was nominated for the at-large position on the Executive Committee. Larry Hebert, Williamstown, was nominated for the at-large position on the Executive Committee. There being no further nominations, nominations were closed and votes were cast by paper ballot. Once collected, the ballots showed eleven votes for Julie Potter and five for Larry Hebert. Julie Potter was duly elected as the at-large member of the Executive Committee to fill the unexpired term of M. Miller.

Staff Reports: Staff updated Commissioners on work on the Regional Plan, the Economic Development, and Environment and Natural Resources working groups, and that the Housing workshop is scheduled for June 17 where discussion will focus on housing issues, tools, and resources.

Staff announced the Flood High Water Mark Hunt where the community input map will be used to plug in photos and locations of high water flood marks as submitted. The "hunt" is being used as a tool to get more input on regional issues through posting to the community input map and raise further awareness on flood-related impacts. Photos can also be emailed and staff will then post them.

The Town Plan Review Committee will be meeting July 2, 4 to 6 p.m., to review the municipal plans of Barre Town and Waterbury. Julie Potter of East Montpelier was added to the Committee for these two reviews.

Benjamin Falls Road (aka Berlin State Highway) going easterly to Route 302/Montpelier will be closed for three weeks as of June 11 for repair to the bridge at the top of the ramp leading downhill. Coming up the hill, westbound from Route 302 to the Hospital, will be open.

At Wrightsville Reservoir this past weekend, there was a drowning at Putnamville Falls.

Legislative Update: A number of bills were passed that are of interest to the planning field, including: incentives for developing in designated downtowns, village centers, and growth centers and in Act 250 review of applications for downtown, village center, and growth center development; the growth center and new town center application process has been re-organized; it must be stated in municipal plans that the town is interested in applying for any of these designations; the Regional Plan is to identify that there are areas that might be good to designate; agricultural soils has a 1 to 1 ratio for mitigation in designated downtown and new town centers; shore land protection to manage impervious surfaces on lakes over ten acres; and towns can require applicants for telecommunication facilities to meet with town officials before proceeding with their application.

Central VT Economic Development Corporation Economic Development Workshop: Matt Dunne and Matt Buzzy both spoke on various aspects of economic development in downtowns, and data relative to employment. The presentations should be on Orca Media or youtube soon.

Annual Appointment of Standing Committee Members: *Project Review Committee* members R. Payne and L. Hebert's terms are expiring. J. Potter stated her willingness to serve. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to re-appoint R. Payne and L. Hebert for a three year term expiring in 2017.

Town Plan Review Committee: It was moved and seconded to re-appoint T. Carver, R. Krauth, G. Malek, B. Arrand and J. Shatney. J. Potter also expressed interest in serving on this Committee. It was suggested that J. Potter and T. Carver both being representatives from the same town (East Montpelier) could alternate meetings. It was agreed that the Commission Chair will contact T. Carver to see if he is interested in continuing to serve on the Committee. If he is not, then J. Potter will be considered the appointee. It was noted that appointing people interested in serving increases the odds of getting a quorum for each meeting. The motion to re-appoint the existing members and J. Potter if T. Carver doesn't want to serve was unanimously approved.

VAPDA: D. La Haye as Chair was appointed to the VT Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA).

VEPC: The Regional Planning Commission Executive Director is an ex officio member of the VT Economic Progress Council by statute.

NVRCD: The Northeastern VT Resource and Conservation District has dissolved.

Regional Plan Progress Timeline Update: The Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) contract requires that some parts of our 2008 Regional Plan be amended by June 2015 rather than June 2016. As a result, we are fast tracking some of the work which will be incorporated into the final 2016 Plan, but needs to be adopted in June 2015. We need to have a future land use map in the Plan, although the 2008 Regional Plan says that we will work on developing one for the next edition of the Plan. However, in order to meet the ACCD

contract requirements, we will do this work one year sooner. We will develop the future land use map by using the natural resources and environment, economic development, and updated utilities and facilities data. We will add more specificity to other elements of the Plan that need them, per the ACCD contract. We will still have the option to amend the land use map, as well as the other elements of the Plan, when we are ready to adopt a final 2016 Plan. The working groups will continue to be very involved, but on a faster timeline. The Regional Plan Draft Review Committee will continue to be the group to review sections and policies as they are doing now. The education and earth extraction elements will still be amended in 2016 and don't have to be done sooner.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to amend the Regional Plan Progress Plan.

It was stated that the hope is that 90% of Central Vermont would be considered mixed use as a designation which fits with what the Region is already. More directive or specific language for implementation is not necessarily the way to go; would prefer to suggest ways that towns can do things; have the Plan be a guide to towns rather than a working plan that CVRPC would implement. It was agreed that we have to be cautious, but there are areas where more directive language could be used.

Economic Development Element of the Regional Plan: Staff presented an overview of the working group's progress on their task of assessing the Region's economy and describing the desired future economic development and recommended programs. The www.PlanCentralvt.org website has the notes and goals and strategies posted and they are updated as the Committee updates their work.

It was asked how and who addresses the economic/public impacts of bridges closed for repairs. It was suggested that VTrans plays a role in this arena when developing road projects.

Forest Stewardship: The development of a statewide forest stewardship plan is a two year process and we are half way through the two years. We are working in collaboration with other regional commissions and the VT Department of Forests and Parks. The draft report is available on the www.centralvt.org website. Part of the plan development includes reviewing the town plans and zoning bylaws of four towns to assess how they impact forest stewardship. The four towns in Central Vermont are Duxbury, Northfield, Fayston, and Marshfield. Staff will work more closely with two of the towns to develop strategies for their towns.

Another item to come out of this planning process is the development of a website where the forest data will be accessible and interactive.

Following the discussion, the Chair thanked Larry Hebert for volunteering for the Executive Committee and thanked Commissioners for participating in the regional planning process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Emery