

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
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"/> |              | Paula Emery, 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 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 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*

Board members shared experiences they are seeing in their municipalities. Examples of success:

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

1 East Montpelier - Putting in place a capital plan and budget process.  
2 Waterbury - 3 affordable housing projects as well as new section 8 housing. Protection of wildlife  
3 corridor (also a challenge)  
4 Berlin – Town Center designation grant awarded. Water system improvements.  
5 Roxbury – School merger has worked well for residents and is encouraging growth in the schools.  
6 Woodbury – Proactive with MRGP in the past which has resulted in having roads in good shape.  
7 Alleviation of some of the flooding issues in village.  
8 Waitsfield – well organized with MRVPD to help with their issues  
9 Moretown – village sidewalks are to be installed this year – were able to leverage stormwater  
10 funding due to infrastructure needs for the sidewalks  
11 Repaving of village and bridge replacement also planned for this summer  
12 Large tracts of forested land going on the market at the same time which creates opportunities for  
13 utilization with regard to conservation – land donation was made to the town  
14 Vitality in recreation committees and trail planning  
15 Plainfield – dedicated grant writer that’s gotten sidewalks, kiosks, etc.  
16 Willingness for volunteer service  
17 Williamstown – renewable energy and solar farm growth  
18 LHMP process with RPC which opened up emergency services conversations in the town  
19 Grant for EAB (WNRCD) mitigation (inventory and management plan)  
20 Montpelier – downtown development zone and new growth  
21 Involvement of Montpelier Alive  
22 Orange – Brook Road and Reservoir Road to be reclassified to be a connector between 302 and 2  
23 (along with Plainfield)  
24 Barre City – does a good job with small staff – budget just passed  
25 Worcester – recent survey showed they are on target in reserving natural aspects of the town – very  
26 few houses and jobs added, but that is how community wants it  
27

28 **Example of challenges:**

29 Duxbury: storm events, volunteer service and leadership; infrastructure – community wastewater,  
30 broadband  
31 East Montpelier - Inadequate village water supply and no village wastewater system; affordable  
32 housing; affordable employee health insurance; financial impact of maintaining ambulance  
33 service  
34 Washington – no wastewater system; affordable housing; old dam that needs removal; need to  
35 maintain the rural characteristics of the town  
36 Barre Town – Town Plan Goals were reiterated – including, growth is likely and desirable and should  
37 be managed so as not to burden capacity of public resources; town should encourage economic  
38 development, growth and development should be planned and managed to respect natural  
39 resources, growth and development should be balanced among residential, industrial and  
40 commercial uses, valued resources and their preservation should be balanced with other  
41 considerations, flash flooding is a primary concern.  
42 Waterbury – more reliability on renewable energy; traffic congestion off exit 10; effectively  
43 addressing drug and alcohol use in community; affordable housing to serve their employment  
44 center

1 Northfield – cost of roads and bridges; cost of police services; finances – lots of non-profits and large  
2 university that impact tax base  
3 Berlin – Housing impacts getting medical professionals into area; volunteers for town committees,  
4 fire department; Master Plan needed for New Town Center designation  
5 Roxbury – volunteers for boards, fire department; keeping up with state mandates – i.e. stormwater  
6 requirements; municipal road upkeep – more funding necessary (perhaps block grants)  
7 Woodbury – service that helps community be connected to modern digital world (poor cell service,  
8 mediocre internet service); substandard housing throughout town (old camps); policing issues;  
9 public transportation (very limited due to location); village limited for development due to  
10 flooding issues  
11 Waitsfield – health and safety and need for companies to have health and safety officers; housing  
12 impacts getting medical professionals into area  
13 Moretown – MRV schools and towns under unified board are trying to figure out how to use and  
14 optimize the current buildings to accommodate needs; costs of emergency services (pay four  
15 different providers currently); economic development  
16 Marshfield – affordable housing; lack of volunteers for town services; trouble balancing business  
17 and conservation (conserved land) with regard to the impact on tax base  
18 Cabot – age in place and keep you here; squeezing out of small farms and homesteads; affordability  
19 (fix what is holding towns back in the regional plan)  
20 Barre Town – decommissioning (i.e. solar panels)  
21 Plainfield – old housing stock in the village; development in the village vs. other areas in town;  
22 volume and impact of vehicular traffic on Route 2  
23 Williamstown - Downtown business development; increased ATV traffic and using town roads to  
24 connect trails to enhance business development ; since no zoning working to use ordinances to  
25 address some downtown issues; infrastructure – lots of stormwater runoff that needs  
26 maintenance – working on stormwater master plan grant moving forward; youth engagement  
27 and volunteer services  
28 Montpelier – housing stock to house those who work in Montpelier  
29 Orange – small tax base – lots of conserved land; volunteers are almost non-existent; cell and  
30 internet service issues; implementation of tactical basin plans and administration is likely to be a  
31 challenge (insuring headwaters are protected) due to town size. Suggests a Regional Basin  
32 Commission vs. town administration.  
33 Barre City – aging infrastructure; transportation opportunities – Route 302 through City but doesn't  
34 get people to stop and take advantage of the city; affordable housing – lots of housing stock but  
35 not lots of great quality; lot of homelessness and poverty needs appropriate measures; flood  
36 resiliency and the rules and regulations related to that; changes to housing board of review; no  
37 grocery store in the downtown; climate change and dependency on fossil fuels and impact on  
38 reaching 2050 goal  
39 Worcester – climate change; no zoning; important to protect unfragmented forest blocks;  
40 preserving agricultural land for agriculture; finalizing Town Plan and alternative energy plan  
41  
42 George Clain of Barre Town suggested opening up another chapter in the Regional Plan addressing  
43 substance abuse and prevention to help with addressing the project regionwide. He shared some  
44 statistics of the economic impact of the issue, both national and statewide. He requested the Executive

1 Director try and get a seat at the table to have a say on where marijuana tax is going to be distributed  
2 statewide.

3  
4 Waninger noted municipal finance issues and substance use issues were not on the table for Regional  
5 Plan in the past, but now are coming forward.

6  
7 b) New Regional Plan Development Process and Draft Vision

8 Rock directed the Board to information in the packet and provided additional details regarding the Plan  
9 Development and Planning Process Guide. Current Regional Plan was written in 2003 and has gone  
10 through amendments and re-adoptions – with last amendment in 2016. It expires in 2024. Staff  
11 recommends creating a new plan. Plan Central Vermont was initiated a few years ago. Good work was  
12 done, but the process did not come to completion. Information from that process will be used in the  
13 development of a new Regional Plan.

14  
15 Floor opened to questions on the guide. Public participation levels were clarified. Rock confirmed that  
16 the Board is responsible for plan adoption.

17  
18 Workforce was brought up to be addressed as a region to encourage, attract, develop and retain a  
19 workforce. Also noted was a need for a statewide economic platform with a pro-business attitude.  
20 Comment was made that schools need to stop communicating to students that out of state is where  
21 they will succeed. Trades schools need to be better utilized.

22  
23 As a second exercise, members were asked to “vote” with dots on the outlined aspirations as part of  
24 the Vision & Aspirations process. Staff will take the information and organize it at the RPC meeting  
25 upcoming next week.

26  
27 M. Gray commented that the exercise was good to show that municipalities share common themes.

28  
29 **Meeting Minutes**

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

31  
32 **Reports**

33 There were no questions or comments.

34  
35 **Adjournment**

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

37  
38 **ADDENDUM:** Results of voting in second exercise are as follows:

39  
40 1. *Steward a strong **culture of cooperative planning** with residents working together to find*  
41 *solutions to sustaining the vitality of local communities and high quality of life enjoyed in our*  
42 *Region. **3 votes***

43  
44 2. *Foster a **prosperous, equitable, and adaptable economy** that will provide full employment in a*

1           *broad range of occupations at a livable wage. **11 votes***

2  
3           3.   Preserve an **economically viable working landscape** of farms and forests, with increased local  
4           *food production and access to healthy food. **10 votes***

5  
6           4.   Protect **ecologically functioning natural systems** and sustainably manage natural resources  
7           *including wildlife, habitat and water resources. **13 votes***

8  
9           5.   Minimize contribution to a **changing climate** and be prepared to mitigate impacts from  
10           *increased natural hazards. **7 votes***

11  
12          6.   Ensure a **range of housing choices** that are high quality, safe and attractive, and provide  
13           *affordable options for all residents. **7 votes***

14  
15          7.   Accommodate the availability of **reliable and affordable energy** supplies, increased energy  
16           *efficiency, and diverse renewable energy resources and facilities. **9 votes***

17  
18          8.   Preserve the **rural character and unique historic settlements** with thriving downtown and village  
19           *centers serving as cultural and economic hubs. **9 votes***

20  
21          9.   Guide construction and maintenance of **cost-effective infrastructure** that supports desired  
22           *growth patterns, public health and environmental sustainability. **8 votes***

23  
24          10. Stimulate a **healthy, active and connected population** in communities that work for all  
25           *residents. **7 votes***

26  
27          11. Provide an **integrated, regional transportation system** that encourages various modes of travel.  
28           **6 votes**

29  
30   Respectfully submitted,

31  
32   Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager