CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 12, 2020

Commissioners:

☑ Barre City Janet Shatney
☐ Barre Town Byron Atwood
☑ Berlin Robert Wernecke
☐ Cabot Karla Nuissl, Alt.
☐ Calais John Brabant
☐ Jan Ohlsson, Alt.
☑ Duxbury Alan Quackenbush
☑ E. Montpelier Julie Potter
☑ Clarice Cutler, Alt.
☐ Fayston Robin Schunk
☐ Middlesex Ron Krauth
☐ Montpelier Marcella Dent
☐ Mike Miller, Alt.

☐ Moretown Dara Torre, Secretary/Treasurer
☐ Northfield Joyce Manchester, Alt.
☐ Orange Lee Cattaneo
☐ Plainfield Paula Emery, Alt.
☐ Roxbury Jerry D’Amico
☐ Waitsfield Don La Haye
☐ Warren Harrison Snapp, Alt.
☐ Washington Peter Carbee
☐ Waterbury Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
☐ Williamstown Richard Turner
☐ Williamstown Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
☑ Woodbury Michael Gray
☐ Worcester Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand

Call to Order
Chair L. Hill-Eubanks called the remote meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business. She read documentation which explained compliance with Open Meeting Law. Roll call was completed.

Adjustments to the Agenda
None

Public Comments
None.

E-Meeting Etiquette
L. Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet.

Nominating Committee Report
J. Shatney, Chair of the Nominating Committee, provided an overview of how the slate was compiled and the contacts that were made. She directed the Board to the revised slate that was forwarded and posted prior to the meeting. In addition to Shatney, the Nominating Committee included Michael Gray
and Rich Turner. Chair Hill-Eubanks opened the slate to nominations from the floor. No nominations were submitted. A paper ballot will be mailed to the Board for voting on officers.

P. Carbee moved to accept the proposed slate; B. Wernecke seconded. S. Lotspeich inquired how appointments to other organizations (MRVPD, GMT, etc) would be handled. Waninger advised they are typically included in the slate. The Board could move them tonight or could vote on them in June. P. Carbee amended his motion to accept the proposed slate including committees as presented and the officers; Wernecke seconded the amended motion. Motion carried. There were no oppositions or abstentions, and a roll call was not necessary.

Basin 14 Plan

B. Waninger provided an overview of the basin planning review process. Usually the basin planner makes a presentation to the Board. The Board would then make a decision as to whether the draft basin plan conforms to the Regional Plan. In advance of that vote, the Clean Water Advisory Committee reviews the draft plan from a water quality perspective and the Regional Plan Committee reviews it from a Regional Plan conformance perspective. Both committees provide comments to inform the Board’s decision. Due to the pandemic, the Basin Plan presentation will be online and a copy of the draft basin plan will be made available to the committees and the Board. Comments and questions will be provided to the Executive Committee, which will draft the final letter to be submitted to the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR). The Executive Committee will invite the communities impacted by the Basin 14 Plan (Marshfield, Plainfield, Orange, Washington) to its review meeting. J. Potter inquired if a staff report would be forthcoming on the Basin Plan and its conformance with the Regional Plan. Waninger advised that can be completed and provided to the Executive Committee. S. Lotspeich noted that Danielle Owczarski of ANR should be invited to participate in the Executive Committee meeting. The draft plan is expected to be released on Monday or Tuesday, and scheduling of the above should occur over the next few weeks. Waninger advised members to contact Nancy for a hard copy of the presentation/plan. Potter asked if this was a tighter schedule than usual for the basin plan review. Waninger advised it was the usual schedule.

Meeting Minutes

R. Wernecke moved to approve the March 10, 2020 minutes as written; S. Lotspeich seconded. Lotspeich requested that acronyms be spelled out in the minutes as a rule. D’Amico noted a discrepancy when we were talking about the concerns from the Towns. He had noted the school merger had worked well; however, he had noted increased growth in the school, which is a good thing. Werneke amended his motion to approve the minutes as amended; Lotspeich accepted the amended motion. Motion carried.

Reports

G. Clain requested clarification on page 22, last bullet – “Potential for ~25% reduction in State allocation funds for FY21”. Waninger said the State is recovering money from State agencies to cover pandemic expenses. RPCs were told ACCD has returned two million dollars, and that ACCD had been requested to return the 4th quarter payment for Regional Planning Commissions and Regional Development Corporations. The Agency successfully argued that the money had been distributed and should not be returned. Based on this request, Directors are anticipating a potential 25% decrease in RPC FY21 funding. VANR has notified its grant recipients that if a recipient has an award letter but not a grant agreement, the award will be cancelled. Clain also inquired about Article 7.2 in the Bylaws regarding
Municipal Assessments and asked for clarification of the November date. Waninger said the assessment rate is established in November to advise municipalities of the rate for their next fiscal year budgets. L. Catteneo inquired when it was announced that if contracts weren’t signed they were going to withhold grant funds. Waninger advised ANR sent out notification 3-4 weeks ago.

L. Hill-Eubanks notified the Board that Ashley Andrews received an award for her GIS work on the Washington County Hunger Council Food Access map. Andrews also has been participating in the Hunger Council’s meetings to monitor food access needs during the pandemic.

Hill-Eubanks advised the next scheduled meeting was June 9th. Waninger advised the Board should plan to meet remotely for at least 9 months. The State Economist informed the Legislature that Vermont’s pandemic recovery will look like a “W”. It will go down, bounce back up partway and then go back down again before climbing back up again as recovered (by approximately FY25). Carbee noted that municipalities may be hard pressed paying the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) dues. P. Emery requested more clarification on the 25% reduction in budgeting; Waninger advised the 25% was related to RPC budget, not municipal budgets. She said some municipalities are building contingency budgets as a planning tool.

Waninger noted there will be a tremendous amount of recovery funding available through grants. CVRPC is proving information to municipalities on these opportunities, and CVRPC is happy to answer questions about them. CVRPC and Addison, Chittenden, and Rutland RPCs are talking with the US Economic Development Administration regarding a joint grant application. More information will be provided at a future meeting.

A question was raised via chat about VTrans projects. Waninger advised they are starting up again; essential projects are the first to start. She noted Clare Rock is checking in on the Plainfield/Marshfield project and will advise soon of its status.

Chartrand advised CVRPC is publishing funding opportunities in its Municipal Updates.

Adjournment
B. Wernecke moved to adjourn at 7:21 pm; L. Catteneo seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager