

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
November 10, 2020

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barre City	Janet Shatney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moretown	Dara Torre, Secretary/Treasurer
<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 type="checkbox"/>		George Clain, Alt	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plainfield	Paula Emery
<input type="checkbox"/>		Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>		Bob Atchinson, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roxbury	Gerry 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	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	<input type="checkbox"/>		J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>		Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayston		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>		Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/>		Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Clare Rock

Guests: Kim McKee and Greg Western, Cross Vermont Trail Association

Call to Order

Chair L. Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm, and conducted a roll call. Quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Order adjusted due to some presenters not being present.

Public Comments

None.

Municipal Dues

Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet. Waninger provided an overview of the reason for dues and how they have been maintained and utilized over the last several years; i.e. matching grants, making up shortfalls, supporting ongoing maintenance and operations. The dues being recommended will take effect July 1, 2021. Krauth noted that on the chart showing dues for all RPCs that Rutland's percentage is quite low and wondered why that was. Waninger advised all municipalities

1 in that region are charged the same rate despite the size of municipality and their dues have not been
2 raised for years. Potter commented that when she joined the Board setting dues was delegated to the
3 Executive Committee, last fall the Board requested that this be a duty of the full Board again, and this is
4 now the second year it is being brought before the full Board for decision. Hornblas questioned
5 Northfield's population growth and Hill-Eubanks advised they believe it is students. Waninger
6 confirmed she did double check the number a second time before presenting the information to the
7 Board.

8
9 *J. Potter moved to adopt the FY22 municipal dues assessment rate of \$1.28 per capita as recommended*
10 *by the Executive Committee; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried.*

11 12 **Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2020**

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

14
15 *J. Shatney moved to approve the minutes; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.*

16 17 **Municipal Plan Approval & Confirmation of Planning Process**

18 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet and introduced Bill Arrand, Chair of the
19 Municipal Plan Review Committee (MPRC). Arrand advised the MPRC met on November 2nd and had
20 two CVRPC staff and three members of the public present. He asked Shatney if she wanted to present
21 any additional information. Shatney advised that 2 ½ years was spent updating the plan which was
22 originally written by a consultant. She feels very good about the plan and hopes to get things
23 accomplished as a result. Arrand advised that staff recommended that additional information on
24 remote work opportunities and childcare would be good to consider in the future. Arrand also
25 confirmed Barre City is not pursuing energy determination at this time, but has a substantial energy
26 chapter. He advised the MPRC recommended approval. Additional discussion ensued regarding Barre's
27 Energy Committee and the City's plan to update the Energy Plan portion in the future to include some
28 finite specific goals for the City. Hill-Eubanks commented that the maps of the neighborhoods were very
29 helpful.

30
31 *D. Torre moved to approve the City of Barre, Vermont 2020 City Municipal Plan; seconded by R. Turner.*
32 *Motion carried.*

33
34 *S. Lotspeich moved to confirm the City of Barre planning process; seconded by R. Krauth. Motion carried.*

35
36 *B. Arrand moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign the resolution which resolves that the Central*
37 *Vermont Regional Planning Commission approves the City of Barre, Vermont 2020 City Municipal Plan,*
38 *adopted September 15 2020; and consulted with and confirms the planning process of the City of Barre.*
39 *M. Dent seconded. Motion carried.*

40 41 **Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC)**

42 Postponed.

43 44 **Regional Recreation Updates**

1 Hill-Eubanks introduced Kim McKee of Cross Vermont Trail and Clare Rock of CVRPC.

2
3 Rock provided a presentation regarding recreational updates in our region and highlighted some of the
4 planning that has occurred over the last few years which has included:

- 5 • Mad River Valley Transportation Plan which promoted the value to the local economy of active
6 trail systems and interconnectiveness.
- 7 • Woodbury Town Forest Recreation Plan to promote forest based recreation and trails system.
8 The plan includes a tool kit to help other communities do similar type projects.
- 9 • Cabot Hub & Spoke Trail Network Master Plan and Implementation Program supports creating a
10 town-wide trail network linking village center to a regional trail network.
- 11 • Northfield Ridge to River Master Plan identifies opportunities to better connect Northfield's
12 population nodes to each other and recreational areas and also tied in stormwater and
13 placemaking infrastructure.

14
15 She noted CVRPC is looking forward to a partnership with Montpelier Parks Association related to a
16 comprehensive outdoor recreation map and a recreational trails hub. CVRPC will be assisting by
17 facilitating and convening a trails group in the region to identify gaps and connections between some of
18 the local trail groups that would help with a more interconnected system.

19
20 This presentation was followed by Kim McKee of the Cross Vermont Trail (CVT) Board who noted the
21 CVT is a project to build a multi-use path across the width of Vermont. It enters the central Vermont
22 region in Marshfield and exits into Chittenden County in Duxbury, with 30 miles of off-road sections
23 currently built. Their current Winooski Bridge Project extends the newly constructed Montpelier path
24 an additional 3 miles upstream with a bridge across the Winooski River near the hydro dam. Greg
25 Western of CVT shared that maps about the bridge project are on their website www.crossvermont.org
26 and the goal is to connect Montpelier to Wells River Rail Trail (Route 14) which has long been supported
27 by CVRPC. He noted they had most recently developed a trail counting protocol with Dan Currier,
28 previously of CVRPC. A template count was conducted a couple of years ago and that data continues to
29 be collected. Their goal is to be plugged into regional planning and fill in physical trail gaps and
30 capability gaps where needed.

31 Hill-Eubanks asked if they've had to deal with Act 250 permitting and how they found the experience.
32 Western noted they have an Act 250 permit for current Winooski Bridge project and confirmed the
33 process was a lot of work to prepare the application and once the application was complete it was a
34 fairly smooth process to approval, however, it took a year to prepare the application. He also noted it is
35 complicated as to who it encumbers, the landowner vs. the trail organization.

36
37 There was question regarding easements vs. landowner agreements. Western spoke to benefits of
38 each. He advised easements are ultimately better from perspective of permanent public access. The
39 Winooski bridge project is all donated easements with the exception of a section on state land, for
40 which they only have permission to use the land.

41 42 **Reports**

43 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet. Waninger shared that as a part of
44 recent legislative activity (Act 166) RPCs have been directed to inventory municipal public safety

1 resources and will be contacting municipalities in the region to gather data to determine who serves
2 each municipality from a fire/rescue, EMS, and police perspective in order to provide this information to
3 the Legislature. This will be ongoing over the next year.

4
5 She also noted that there has been ongoing state discussion about diversity, equity, and inclusion. State
6 agencies been given direction and she expects this will work its way through contracts and grants. More
7 information will be forthcoming to the Board. She also advised RPCs are talking with VLCT about
8 whether it makes sense for a partnership with RPCs to provide trainings to the municipalities. Feedback
9 from municipalities was requested as to whether they saw a role for RPCs and VLCT to play in this type
10 of training.

11
12 There was a question as to what types of resources may be available currently for municipalities with
13 regard to equity training. Waninger shared information on training she has attended and advised she
14 would be happy to share resources she has and to please let her or Nancy know if you would like them.

15
16 **Adjournment**

17 *A motion was approved to adjourn at 7:38 pm.*

18
19 Respectfully submitted,

20
21 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager