

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 24, 2020 Special Meeting

Commissioners:

<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	George Clain, Alt	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paula Emery, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico
<input type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harrison Snapp, Alt.
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston		<input type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input 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

Call to Order

Chair L. Hill-Eubanks called the remote meeting to order at 6:35 pm and advised the reason for the special meeting was to review Northfield and Fayston's Town Plans. She noted there was not a full quorum of the Board, therefore the Executive Committee will need to do voting. Hill-Eubanks announced a roll call of participants.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None.

Public Comments

None.

Municipal Plan Approval, Confirmation of Planning Process & Certificate of Energy Compliance

- a) Town of Fayston – plan approval, planning process confirmation

1 b) Town of Northfield – plan approval, planning process confirmation, energy compliance certificate
2
3 Hill-Eubanks advised information was to have been presented by Bill Arrand, who was not currently
4 present. She requested Clare Rock provide the introduction. She also noted a revised resolution was
5 emailed to members today as a revision to the packet.
6

7 Town of Fayston

8 Rock advised the Municipal Plan Review Committee (MPRC) recommended approval of the Municipal
9 Plan and confirmation of the Town’s planning process. She noted the Fayston Plan did not include the
10 enhanced energy component. The Selectboard adopted the Plan subsequent to the MPRC meeting; and
11 there has been confirmation that the plan has been approved by the Fayston Select Board and that
12 there was little discussion at the Select Board hearing. It was noted that one comment raised was the
13 consideration of how COVID has impacted the municipal planning process and consideration of whether
14 that should be incorporated into the review process. There was limited discussion as that is not a plan
15 component or requirement. Rock wanted to make note of that comment to the Board. She reiterated
16 that the MPRC voted to recommend approval by the CVRPC Board.
17

18 Bill Arrand joined the meeting.
19

20 Hill-Eubanks opened the floor to questions. G. Clain asked for confirmation that the meeting was now
21 the Executive Committee meeting since there was not a quorum of the Board. This was confirmed. He
22 also brought attention to one area of the Fayston Plan – Page 114 where the 1st sentence refers to “see
23 Section 8.5.5”, which doesn’t appear to exist. This appears to be a typo, not a section that is missing. It
24 should be cited as Section 8.6.
25

26 D’Amico asked if the plan addresses the energy section that was noted in Barre Town’s Plan and
27 discussed at our last meeting. Rock confirmed Fayston was not asking for a determination of energy
28 compliance.
29

30 Hill-Eubanks read the proposed motion:

31 “Resolved that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission:

- 32 1) approves the Fayston, Vermont 2020 Town Plan, adopted September 22 2020, and
33 2) consulted with and confirms the planning process of the Town of Fayston.”
34

35 *G. D’Amico so moved; J. Potter seconded. Motion carried.*
36

37 Town of Northfield

38 At Hill-Eubanks’ request, Dara Torre assumed Chair of the meeting. B. Arrand said the MPRC reviewed
39 the Town Plan, Planning Process and Energy Component and that the MPRC approved all three.
40

41 Hill-Eubanks advised that the Northfield Planning Commission has been working on the plan for over
42 two years and had a lot of input from the public including hearings, forums, and surveys. The Town
43 Planning Commission believes it reflects what the Town of Northfield wanted in the Town Plan.
44

45 Clain commented that on Page 34 of Northfield’s Town Plan under Public Utilities, 2nd paragraph has an

1 issue which might be a typo or punctuation. It reads "...but as of 2018 it did not generate any power and
2 contracted with Green Mountain Power to provide all maintenance services..." Clain noted GMP was
3 contracted before 2018. Hill-Eubanks clarified that it was oddly worded as it is meant to state as of
4 2018, they knew that GMT was still not generating power as that was the most current year they had
5 data. Clain advised gratitude for town officials who work on these plans and put in the time to create
6 them. Torre inquired if there were additional questions or comments. She directed the members to the
7 resolution on page 13 of the packet and read the following as a proposed motion:

8
9 "Resolved that the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission:

10 3) approves the Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028, adopted August 11, 2020, and

11 4) consulted with and confirms the planning process of the Town of Northfield."

12
13 *J. Potter moved to approve the Northfield Town Plan, confirm the Town's planning process, and*
14 *authorize the Chair to sign the resolution; M. Gray seconded. Motion carried.*

15
16 Torre inquired if Hill-Eubanks had anything to share about the energy element. Hill-Eubanks shared
17 there had been a comment that the Plan should set an example by supporting or encouraging new
18 energy generation. She advised that they did have something that addressed that in the Plan in one of
19 the implementation actions which was to investigate capturing methane at the wastewater treatment
20 plant to use to generate energy. She also noted Northfield wanted to protect their ridgelines above
21 1,800 feet from larger renewable energy facilities, and therefore discouraged development above 1,800
22 feet.

23
24 Potter raised a question regarding the proposed resolution item #6, which states . . . "Board of
25 Commissioners..... voted to approve the determination.....". Given that the that the Executive
26 Committee was authorized to do this in lieu of Commissioners, how does this language change? She
27 also referenced a highlight noting number of members of public in attendance at the MPRC meeting.
28 Rock confirmed that the following were present at the MPRC Meeting - Municipal Representatives:
29 Laura Hill Eubanks, Northfield Planning Commission Chair, Doug Day, Fayston Planning Commission
30 Chair, Carol Chamberlain, Fayston Planning Commission. Waninger confirmed the resolution would
31 need to have this information updated. Item #6 would be changed to reflect a new item that discusses
32 the Board authorizing the Executive Committee to make a decision in absence of a Board quorum. The
33 original Item #6 would become #7, which would replace Board of Commissioners with Executive
34 Committee on behalf of Board of Commissioners.

35
36 *J. Potter moved to approve the determination of energy compliance for Northfield and approve the*
37 *resolution as edited; M. Gray seconded. Motion carried.*

38
39 **Adjournment**

40 *M. Gray moved to adjourn at 7:03 pm; D. Torre seconded. Motion carried.*

41
42 Respectfully submitted,

43
44 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager