

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
December 8, 2020

Commissioners:

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barre City | Janet Shatney | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown | Dara Torre, Secretary/Treasurer |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre Town | Heather Grandfield, Alt. | <input type="checkbox"/> Northfield | Joyce Manchester, Alt |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlin | Byron Atwood | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange | Laura Hill-Eubanks, Chair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | George Clain, Alt | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plainfield | Lee Cattaneo |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot | Robert Wernecke | <input type="checkbox"/> | Paula Emery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calais | Karla Nuissl, Alt. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury | Bob Atchinson, Alt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Amy Hornblas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield | Gerry D'Amico |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury | John Brabant | <input type="checkbox"/> Warren | Don La Haye |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier | Jan Ohlsson, Alt. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington | Harrison Snapp, Alt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Alan Quackenbush | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterbury | J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fayston | Julie Potter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown | Peter Carbee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield | Clarice Cutler, Alt. | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodbury | Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex | Russ Bowen | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester | Richard Turner |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montpelier | Robin Schunk | | Jacqueline Higgins, Alt. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ron Krauth | | Michael Gray |
| | Marcella Dent | | Bill Arrand |
| | Mike Miller, Alt. | | |

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand, Zach Maia, Grace Vinson, Clare Rock

Guests: Dr. Mark Levine and Joan Marie Misk, Vermont Department of Health; Zach Sullivan,

Call to Order

Chair L. Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None.

Public Comments

None.

Dr. Mark Levine, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health (VDH)

Hill-Eubanks introduced Dr. Levine who provided an overview of the status of COVID-19 in the state, and noted that VDH is focused on the number of situations in our region. He advised everyone needs to be encouraged regarding masking, physical distancing and avoiding gatherings. They are however, hopeful that multiple household gatherings over Thanksgiving were the exception rather than the rule, and that will be a good predictor of how to address Christmas and New Year's. He noted we want to be at lower level of virus going into these holidays and currently we are at too high a level to be comfortable.

1 Abiding by travel guidance and multi household gathering guidance is part of addressing this. He noted
2 that the vaccine doses should be here in about one week (5,850 doses initially with 5,850 held in reserve
3 for a second dose) and these will be available to the health care and long term care work force and long
4 term care residents. Distribution during a later phase of vaccinations will likely be at pharmacies,
5 primary care offices, and VDH district offices. In conclusion he stated he remains very concerned about
6 this part of the State, that he doesn't think it is as bad as a few weeks ago, but still is not good. He
7 opened the floor and questions were addressed regarding vaccines, testing statistics, when people
8 should test, and how data is being tracked as it relates to other factors impacted by the virus such as
9 bankruptcies, suicides, domestic abuse, etc. There was also inquiry as to how can education and
10 outreach at the municipal level help with vaccinations? He advised that VDH has a lot of
11 communications developed and in development to share and recommends municipalities work with
12 their healthcare community and public health community (district offices) to help get out appropriate
13 messaging. A video of the meeting and discussion is available at
14 <https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/>
15

16 **Vermont Mask Survey**

17 Hill-Eubanks introduced Amy Hornblas and the VT Mask Survey, which is included in the packet.
18 Hornblas provided an overview of why she is doing the survey, noting she is an evidence based health
19 educator with experience with people of all ages and abilities in a number of community settings. The
20 survey is ongoing and addresses the cost/benefit of mask wearing. She advised there is a lot of
21 discussion on benefits of mask wearing, but very little discussion on the costs. She directed the Board
22 to the detailed information in the packet, and provided an overview of the survey results, noting her
23 focus tonight is on difficulty breathing and difficulty washing your hands during mask use. She noted all
24 21 survey respondents indicated they had difficulty breathing while wearing a mask and provided data
25 from an N95 study that noted reduced air exchange while mask wearing. Also noted was difficulty in
26 cleaning your hands every time you touch your mask may increase risk of infections and that the CDC is
27 very clear that you should not be touching your mask.
28

29 She advised it is important to keep collecting data, provide current community resources, respect
30 exemptions, educate about hygiene (face and hands), take frequent breath breaks, be alert to
31 difficulties and be ready to treat. She noted you can email her at vtmasksurvey@mail.com for more
32 information. Discussion following the presentation offered comment of the benefit possibly
33 outweighing the cost and also a need to access guidance on mask usage. A video of the meeting and
34 discussion is available at <https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/> and the
35 presentation shared will be published on CVRPC's website.
36

37 **Committee Rules of Procedure Updates**

38 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet and provided an overview of why these
39 Rules of Procedure (ROP) need to be brought into conformance with the Bylaws. The Committees have
40 revised their ROP and the Executive Committee has recommended that these draft ROP be approved by
41 the Board.
42

43 It was noted the open meeting law language should cite specific statute and Waninger clarified that it
44 must have gotten dropped out of one, but needs to be entered into all.
45

1 Discussion ensued regarding the Transportation Advisory Committee ROP as to whether or not they
2 want outside representatives to be full members on Committee. It was confirmed TAC voted not to
3 have outside representatives as voting members, as outlined by the Bylaws. When approved these ROP
4 will comply with Bylaws, however, after they are approved it is anticipated the Bylaws will be reviewed
5 and potentially changed related to this topic, at which time the TAC ROP may need to be revised again.
6

7 *R. Wernecke moved to adopt changes to the Rules of Procedure for Clean Water Advisory Committee;*
8 *Municipal Plan Review Committee; and Transportation Advisory Committee. Motion seconded by D. La*
9 *Haye. Motion carried.*
10

11 **Bylaw Work Group**

12 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet and provided an overview as to a need
13 to review of the most recent rewrite of the Bylaws. The Executive Committee has set up a
14 subcommittee/work group for the Bylaws' review. S. Lotspeich and M. Gray have volunteered to be
15 Executive Committee members, and G. Clain has volunteered to be a Board member. The floor was
16 opened for any additional volunteers to be part of the Bylaws Work Group. No volunteers came
17 forward.
18

19 *R. Wernecke moved to have George Clain join the Committee to rewrite the bylaws; seconded by Bill*
20 *Arrand. Motion carried*
21

22 **Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2020**

23 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet.
24

25 *G. D'Amico moved to approve the November 10, 2020 minutes; D. La Haye seconded. Motion carried.*
26

27 **Reports**

28 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet. There was clarification that the Board
29 meeting date was incorrect and should reflect 12/8 not 12/15. There was also clarification that the
30 Project Review Committee would likely not be meeting on 12/17, but this will be confirmed before the
31 end of the week. Waninger was congratulated for her work in the Working Communities Challenge.
32 Rock provided additional information about the Letter of Support for Act 250 application 5W1206-5 in
33 the packet. She noted the Project Review Committee (PRC) reviewed the application and based on the
34 subdivision's location found it was a project of Significant Regional Impact due to being in the Shutesville
35 Wildlife Corridor and policy in regional plan. PRC made a finding the project was not in conformance
36 with the Regional Plan and at this time we are still waiting to see what the ruling from the District Office
37 will be on the comments received and on the application as it stands.
38

39 **Adjournment**

40 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 7:49 pm; A. Hornblas seconded. Motion carried.*
41

42 Respectfully submitted,
43

44 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager