

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Regional Plan Committee

Minutes

May 26, 2020 4:00 – 5:15 pm

Remote Participation via GoToMeetings

Committee Members:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dara Torre, Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Julie Potter, Vice Chair |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Laura Hill-Eubanks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ron Krauth |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Marcella Dent |

Staff: Clare Rock, Grace Vinson

Others: George Clain, Barre Town Alternate

CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

D Torre opened the meeting at 4:05pm. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approval of the February 18, 2020 meeting minutes.

Page 1, Line 18: replace weather with whether

Page 2, Line 2: replace stagg with staff

Page 2, line 9: replace shorted, with shorter

Page 2, line 30: replace Board with Committee

L Hill Eubanks made a motion to approve the February 18, 2020 meeting minutes with the amendments noted, seconded by M Dent. All in favor. Motioned carried.

Basin 14 Basin Plan - Grace Vinson, CVRPC Staff

Vinson provided a summary of the proposed comments and recommendations (as contained within the meeting materials) regarding the *Steven, Wells, Waits, Ompompanoosuc & Connecticut River Direct Tributaries, Basin-14 Tactical Basin Plan's* conformance with the Regional Plan.

Discussion followed with comments and questions by the committee. The committee suggested the crosswalk accompany the letter to ANR as it provides good context for items referenced in the letter.

Grammatical and formatting suggestions were made including a suggestion that when the document name is used for the first time (i.e. Tactical Basin Plan) the acronym should follow (i.e. TBP). Plus a request that line # be used for easier referencing in the review process.

The committee also inquired about bullet 2 in the letter and whether the RPC should also be commenting on the prioritization of projects (as this wasn't covered in the memo) Staff should double check if this is applicable, before the conformance review and comments are finalized and submitted to the Executive Committee.

1
2 Marcella Dent, indicated that she works with VT DEC and while she isn't involved with the tactical basin
3 Plan Dent wanted to ensure there wouldn't be any perceived possible conflict of interest. Other
4 committee members thanks Dent for raising the issue and the committee determined there was no
5 conflict of interest.

6
7 Other committee comments included: Combining the 2 wetland comments and/or cross reference the
8 comments within the crosswalk documents, and making the connection between the Regional Plan
9 Goals and the Basin Plan strategies clearer by referring to specific Regional Plan goals in the letter, and
10 bolding each Regional Plan goal in the crosswalk document as opposed to just underlining.

11
12 Vinson provided an overview of the review process:

13 June 11: CWAC will review, primary for input on comments on meeting water quality goals (rather than
14 on conformance.)

15 June 15: Executive Committee will review all comments and approve final comments and input prior to
16 submittal to ANR.

17 June 18: Staff shall send final version to ANR.
18

19 **Regional Plan: Development of New Plan – Clare Rock, CVRPC Staff**

20 The committee reviewed comments and feedback from Board meeting on March 10, 2020. This included
21 reviewing input on the draft Vision and Aspirations; and a review of the municipal needs, challenges and
22 successes. The committee discussed incorporation into the Regional Plan.

23
24 A general comment made by the committee was a recognition of how broad the view is on the term
25 "infrastructure." Municipalities are likely just looking at things like water and sewer and roads, and likely
26 not necessarily thinking about broadband and other telecommunication needs. With current conditions
27 and everyone relying on internet service this has become highlighted how there just isn't adequate
28 broadband. In the context of the draft aspirations, we may not know how people are interpreting the
29 term "infrastructure."

30
31 The committee went through the draft Aspirations and Board comments (included in the packet and had
32 the following discussions:

33
34 Re: the economy aspiration: Should do a better merge of the existing aspiration and the staff revision.
35 The second half of the original aspiration shouldn't be lost and the term "skilled" should be removed, as
36 this implies unskilled workers are not wanted or needed yet they are integral to many businesses in the
37 region. One committee questioned whether the aspiration should also include a reference to the
38 management aspect of businesses. No additional suggestion were made on this comment.

39
40 Re: Housing aspiration: Discussion of the terms "attractive" and "high quality" and their relative
41 subjective nature. There was general support of the proposed revision with a suggestion to include
42 energy efficiency, suggestion to look at Downstreets' language and the inclusion of terms like "healthy"
43 and home. Discussion followed about passing judgement on people's individual standards of attractive
44 and safe, and affordable. The committee agreed to change the aspiration to "Ensure a range of safe,
45 healthy, and affordable homes which are available for all residents." With the caveat this may be
46 modified or wordsmith-ed in the next review.
47

1 Re: Energy aspiration: discussions about the use of the term “clean” as in “clean energy” and what this
2 actually means to not only the development of energy but in the development and re-use of the
3 materials such as solar panels. The staff revision doesn’t seem to capture all types of energy usage, such
4 as transportation energy usage and the aspiration needs to accommodate all sectors and not just an
5 alternatives electrical energy. One suggestion was the inclusion of bundling the adjectives... “Reliable,
6 efficient and diverse...” Staff will take another run at that one.

7
8 Re: Cost-effect infrastructure: yes we should we weave in the term “connectivity” to relate to
9 broadband, to clarify that internet is part of the infrastructure. In response to staff revision, committee
10 wanted to keep the term growth pattern, but this may not be adequate. Staff take another crack at that
11 one.

12
13 Re: Healthy and connected population: the term connected should emphasize community networks
14 “and building social capital” and not how socially connected an individual should be. This clarification
15 could likely come with the associated narrative, and no necessarily change the aspiration.

16
17 Staff reported CVRPC is applying for EDA funds to write a Comprehensive Economic Development
18 Strategy (CEDs) in partnership with a few other RPC’s. If this project is funded this CEDS would be, could
19 be the economic development chapter of our new regional plan. Committee would like additional
20 information about the components of this because if the CEDS will result in just a list of projects then it
21 may not be sufficient. Staff shall provide additional information about this effort and its intersection
22 with the regional plan at the next meeting.

23
24 **ADJOURNMENT**

25
26 *L Hill-Eubanks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by J Potter, all in favor. Motion carried.*

27
28 **Next meeting Date: approx. 2 months, date TBD.**