

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
January 11, 2021

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	Russ Bowen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand

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

Guests: Jamie Stewart, Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC); Paul Costello,
Chair of Local Solutions and Community Action Team

Call to Order

Chair L. Hill-Eubanks called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and conducted a roll call. Quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda

Hill-Eubanks noted that the first speaker had not arrived, and the Rules of Procedure would be moved forward in the agenda.

Public Comments

Hill-Eubanks advised the Executive Committee had discussed the chat process for virtual meetings and a protocol to manage participation. Staff will monitor the chat. Hill-Eubanks also advised she needed to leave the meeting at 7:00 pm and the Chair role would transition to Vice-Chair Lotspeich.

Committee Rules of Procedure Updates

1 *P. Carbee moved to adopt the Municipal Plan Review Committee Rules of Procedure and Nominating*
2 *Committee Rules of Procedure and Guidelines; R. Wernecke seconded. Hill-Eubanks advised staff had*
3 *requested separate motions for clarity.*

4
5 *P. Carbee moved to amend his motion to adopt the Municipal Plan Review Committee Rules of*
6 *Procedure; R. Wernecke accepted that amendment. Motion carried.*

7
8 With regard to the Nominating Committee Rules of Procedure, discussion ensued regarding the
9 language on page 9, line 34 with regard to resignations and new appointments applying to all members
10 not just the chair and vice chair. Waninger provided suggested changes based on the discussion, which
11 were shared verbally and visually, and agreed upon.

12
13 Question was raised on Attachment A, Guidelines, and the language “To continuously provide fresh
14 views and to foster knowledge of and participation in CVRPC, the Nominating Committee should
15 periodically consider having a small a turnover in members of committees.” It was confirmed this is not
16 a requirement, but a suggestion that this occur periodically to ensure everyone has an opportunity to
17 serve and to provide fresh perspective.

18
19 *R. Wernecke moved to adopt the amended Rules of Procedure for the Nominating Committee and to*
20 *adopt the Nominating Committee Guidelines; P. Carbee seconded. Motion carried.*

21 22 **Governor’s Economic Mitigation and Recovery Task Force**

23 Hill-Eubanks introduced Paul Costello, Chair of Local Solutions and Community Action Team. Costello
24 briefly reviewed Governor Scott’s approach to COVID. While the approach is considered one of the
25 most effective initiatives in the country, it also resulted in considerable challenges to the people of
26 Vermont and the economy. As part of this approach, the Local Solutions and Community Action Team
27 was created to accelerate response strategies. Their charge was to identify and replicate regional and
28 community recovery initiatives and gaps in recovery efforts to ensure equitable distribution of
29 resources, especially in rural areas and underserved populations.

30
31 The Team went to each county to learn the issues specific to that county and overall received a
32 tremendous amount of input. Common themes identified were fundamental importance of broadband
33 and childcare, immediate needs and challenges facing businesses, and a hope to not just return to
34 “normal” based on all the crises that are being faced nationwide. Costello highlighted other findings in
35 the report.

36
37 Costello’s organization, the Vermont Council on Rural Development, has created a database and website
38 portal that shares best practices community by community. As a team, they evaluated all information
39 and documented a short list of fundamental challenges and ideas to present to the Governor.

40
41 Costello also discussed economic recovery, innovation, and the need to combat racism in all its forms to
42 advance equity.

43
44 Commissioners asked questions about the report’s wording via the housing discussion, which might be

1 read as encouraging suburban development. Costello noted this was not the intent; the intent was to
2 support downtowns and village centers. Board members highlighted the need for ubiquitous broadband
3 statewide in conjunction with strong planning across the state.

4
5 Costello also advised their final report, "Connecting Toward Recovery and Renewal," was published on
6 11/6/2020 and is on the VCRD website , which can be found at
7 [https://www.vtrural.org/sites/default/files/content/reports/other%20reports/Local-Solutions-Task-](https://www.vtrural.org/sites/default/files/content/reports/other%20reports/Local-Solutions-Task-Force-Report.pdf)
8 [Force-Report.pdf](https://www.vtrural.org/sites/default/files/content/reports/other%20reports/Local-Solutions-Task-Force-Report.pdf).

9 10 **Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation Update**

11 Vice Chair Lotspeich introduced Jamie Stewart, Executive Director of CVEDC. Stewart confirmed they
12 are in the midst of an exceptionally busy time. Some of the highlights noted:

- 13
14 • Working Communities grant funds for the single female head of households work that is being
15 undertaken in Barre. A grant application process that B. Waninger spearheaded and successfully
16 managed.
- 17
18 • Regional Development Corporations (RDCs) received CARES monies to provide technical
19 assistance to businesses. It was very successful and used local/regional service providers
20 (accountants, architects, web designers, social media designers) to support local businesses.
21 This benefited both small businesses who needed technical assistance and local providers of
22 those services. They hope to see more money to continue this work in next round of funding.
- 23
24 • RDCs participated with the State in recovery grant reviews. Stewart noted the level of need due
25 to impact of COVID has been huge. He also noted that innovation and willingness to pivot
26 (downsize, flex, remote work) has helped to maintain the workforce and keep companies afloat.
27 Based on the level of impact, he expects it will be a 1-2 years before businesses stabilize.

28
29 Stewart noted communities without significant broadband are suffering with regard to the housing
30 market as it is an important component of supporting communities to grow.

31
32 RDCs are strongly advocating for broadband development, building out daycare systems, and housing
33 solutions. These are seen as being principal issues that we can all address together to support and
34 promote opportunities and options that are available today due to funds in response to COVID.

35
36 Discussion ensued regarding the possibilities for childcare. Stewart said that Let's Grow Kids is creating
37 a comprehensive approach for dealing with it over the next three years. The approach calls for
38 employer contributions to assist with funding and potential tax code changes.

39
40 There was also discussion on the status of supporting our workforce through immigration and/or return
41 of young folks back to Vermont. With regard to immigration, Stewart noted he believes a change in the
42 federal administration is needed for this to occur and that many in Vermont's business community
43 support immigration of workforce into Vermont. With regard to bringing youth back to Vermont, he
44 confirmed that is an ongoing battle, and also the flight from cities to Vermont due to COVID has caused

1 issues in the housing market. Keeping housing affordable for a young workforce will continue to be a
2 challenge. Also discussed was the hope that grand list growth supports the needs for additional services
3 in individual communities to support a growing population; and the challenges that limited water and
4 wastewater infrastructure creates in supporting and promoting population growth.

6 **Nominating Committee Appointment**

7 Lotspeich provided a brief overview of the need to elect Commissioners to the 2021 Nominating
8 Committee. He described the Nominating Committee role. He stated the Executive Committee
9 nominates a slate of Julie Potter, Gerry D'Amico, and Peter Carbee for FY22.

11 *R. Wernecke moved to elect Julie Potter, Gerry D'Amico, and Peter Carbee to the 2021 Nominating*
12 *Committee; R. Turner seconded. R. Wernecke asked if they should inquire if there are any additional*
13 *nominations from the floor. G. Clain advised he believed that since the nominations were a charge of the*
14 *Executive Committee, that Robert Rules allows for there not to be nominations from the floor, which*
15 *Waninger confirmed. Motion carried.*

17 **Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2020 and December 8, 2020**

18 R. Turner noted December minutes showed November minutes were approved (Line 19). The Board
19 bypassed voting on November minutes.

21 *R. Wernecke moved to accept the December 8 minutes; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried.*

23 **Reports**

24 Waninger advised that interviews begin this week for the transportation planner. She also advised
25 CVRPC has been approached by a Board member from CVFiber who requested CVRPC draft a proposal
26 to provide administrative and accounting services to CVFiber. For more details, please contact her.

28 Z. Maia commented that his work over the past 18 months has allowed him to work with a variety of
29 partners to bring information regarding energy to the communities. He noted the energy contract has
30 ended. He appreciated the opportunity to engage with municipalities on those topics.

32 C. Rock highlighted CVRPC's Zoning Administrators Roundtable to be held next Thursday and invited
33 Commissioners to participate. The agenda includes discussion on accessory on-farm businesses and
34 changes to accessory structures, flood hazard regulations, as well as other topics. With regard to Zoning
35 for Great Neighborhoods, ACCD is hosting a training at the end of January where planners can obtain
36 more in depth information. CVRPC will share the link to participate in that training. CVRPC will
37 subsequently be sharing this information with municipalities.

39 **Adjournment**

40 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:05 pm; P. Carbee seconded. Motion carried.*

42 Respectfully submitted,

44 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager