

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Draft MINUTES**  
**March 9, 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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Gerry D'Amico
<input checked="" 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	J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Julie Potter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	Steve Lotspeich, Vice-Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Russ Bowen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Richard Turner
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Robin Schunk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Bill Arrand
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	

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

Guests: Kate Forrer, Vermont Urban & Community Forestry Council

**Call to Order**

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

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

None

**Public Comments**

None

**Town Forest Recreation Planning Toolkit**

Hill-Eubanks introduced Kate Forrer of the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Council (UCF). Forrer advised they have been supporting towns in planning for recreation, conservation and management in town forests. She noted that town forests are often managed by volunteers. To assist municipalities they have developed a process for developing a Town Forest Recreation Plan through the

1 Vermont Town Forest Recreation Planning Initiative. Marshfield and Woodbury were two of the pilot  
2 communities that participated in this planning process. She provided an outline of the process UCF  
3 developed in collaboration with SE Group. Each community in the pilot program had a local steering  
4 committee to steer and guide the process.

5 The process is outlined in the Toolkit available online (<https://vtcommunityforestry.org/places/town-forests/recreation-planning-initiative/recreation-planning-toolkit>); which Kate walked the Board  
6 through a portion of. She noted that there is a Step-by-Step Planning Process and Individual Pods to  
7 use. The different pods provide such tools as Town Forest Survey Template, Volunteer Trail Use  
8 Counting Forms, Natural Resource Guidelines, Planning Matrix for natural resources, Town Forest  
9 Recreation Plan Template, and Trail Design Guide to name a few.

11  
12 The floor was opened to questions and discussion. There was discussion regarding the conflict that can  
13 occur in town forest planning between recreation and conservation and the difficulty of finding the  
14 appropriate balance. Forrer noted there is no perfect answer for all communities. The following  
15 resource was suggested in the GoToMeeting chat: contact Wildlife Biologist Susan Morse and link shared  
16 <https://keepingtrack.org/sue-morse-background>. Forrer also suggested the University of New  
17 Hampshire has done a lot of work on impacts of recreation use and that County Foresters are another  
18 excellent resource to work with communities. There was also discussion regarding the tension between  
19 recreation and forest management. Forrer noted that the toolkit is designed around recreation, but  
20 now they need to address how a recreation plan intersects with a forest management plan; which they  
21 will be revising the toolkit to address. There was also confirmation that the planning process UCF  
22 outlines is focused on bringing together different groups to work collectively through the steering  
23 committee - a temporary group of people who come together to guide the process of planning for  
24 recreation in the town forests.

25  
26 Gray of Woodbury advised that their town went through the process with SE Group for their town  
27 fForest which was donated in the 1950's for timber rights. The process involved a lot of community  
28 participation which resulted in a decision to conserve the town forest with an identified use of  
29 walking/interpretive trails with snowmobile trail use in the winter. He said the SE Group was great and  
30 that it was a well thought out and enjoyable process for the community.

31  
32 The topic of funding was raised and it was noted that the Implementation Pod in the toolkit lists grant  
33 opportunities and fund raising information; and also that VOREC Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economy  
34 Collaborative (VOREC) may also be a resource for funding. Forrer shared her email  
35 [Katherine.forrer@uvm.edu](mailto:Katherine.forrer@uvm.edu) and noted she is happy to discuss opportunities with municipalities. Hill-  
36 Eubanks thanked Forrer for her presentation.

### 37 38 **Regional Economic Priority List**

39 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet. She advised that Central Vermont  
40 Economic Development Corporation (CVEDC) has asked that two to three CVRPC Board members join  
41 their Review Committee for prioritizing economic development projects in the region. Waninger  
42 confirmed the projects have to be economic focused: job retention, workforce development,  
43 infrastructure that allows further development of private businesses. Waninger explained CVEDC  
44 advised they will not need to provide the prioritized list until December as the state is looking for a more

1 robust engagement process this year to solicit and then prioritize projects. CVEDC is hoping to do focus  
2 groups with municipalities, private sector, and non-profits to identify projects. The Committee is  
3 expected to be made up of three CVEDC Board Members, three CVRPC representatives, representatives  
4 from municipal governments, and representatives from businesses.

5  
6 Hill-Eubanks advised we are looking for two or three members to serve on this committee. Paula Emery  
7 and Peter Carbee both volunteered. There was a request for a motion to appoint Emery and Carbee to  
8 join CVEDC's project priority review committee.

9  
10 *M. Gray moved the motion, seconded by J. Potter. Motion carried.*

## 11 12 **Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2021**

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

14 *P. Carbee moved to approve the minutes; R. Turner seconded. Motion carried, with one abstention.*

## 15 16 **Reports**

17 Hill-Eubanks directed the Board to the information in the packet. Waninger advised we have a new  
18 transportation planner, Christian Meyer, on board who is hosting a CVFiber meeting tonight on behalf of  
19 CVRPC. Gray asked if the Board could have a short report at a future Board Meeting about CVFiber and  
20 how things are progressing there. Waninger advised she will try to coordinate; however, they meet on  
21 the same night as our Board. She did note they won some slots in the broadband auction. Carbee  
22 requested in the Chat that the Board receive updates from both CVFiber and ECFiber.

23  
24 Hill-Eubanks asked about the recent Town Meeting cannabis legislation and how it intersects with  
25 municipal zoning regulations. Rock advised she is undertaking research ahead of the March 31<sup>st</sup>  
26 Planning & Zoning Roundtable to be able to speak directly to this topic and a guest speaker will also  
27 participate to talk about youth substance abuse prevention, and considerations for municipalities to  
28 think about in their planning process and how it may intersect with zoning regulations.

29  
30 Significant discussion ensued regarding helipads. Waninger advised Meyer can assist municipalities with  
31 this question and Rock advised that they will be doing outreach to municipalities with additional  
32 resources and guidance in the future.

33  
34 Emery raised questions about Vermont Extreme Heat Research Project and Waninger advised Grace  
35 Vinson is our staff person on this project and could assist with details.

36  
37 There was also a request for the Board to learn more about the Energy Action Network and VTrans pilot  
38 project as outlined in the staff report. Waninger advised we will have more information on this project  
39 soon.

40  
41 Hill-Eubanks advised the letter related to the Berlin New Town Center was not in the packet. Rock  
42 provided a summary of the letter, noting the Regional Plan Committee met twice to review the Berlin  
43 New Town Center application. Their charge was to confirm the conformance of the application with the  
44 Regional Plan, to consider any comments CVRPC might want to give to Downtown Board in review of

1 application, and also to respond to Berlin's request to receive a letter of support from CVRPC. The  
2 Committee found that overall the application as proposed was in conformance with the broad planning  
3 goals outlined in Regional Plan. They also found that many Regional Plan policies supported Berlin's  
4 application. They also recognize that Berlin chooses not to propose new town center in an undeveloped  
5 area, but create to a downtown in an area currently defined as sprawl-like development; and taking on  
6 the challenge of sprawl repair is an ongoing incremental process.

7  
8 Miller further advised the City of Montpelier has come out in favor of the New Town Center and  
9 provided them a letter of support. Waninger will email the CVRPC letter out to the Board following the  
10 meeting for comment/questions to be provided to the Chair.

## 11 12 **Municipal Updates**

13 Hill-Eubanks advised Clain had asked if he could talk about a solar project in Barre Town, however he has  
14 left the meeting. Barre Town is currently dealing with the Public Utilities Commission regarding the  
15 project in question. The agenda item "Municipal Updates" has been added to the end of the agenda as  
16 time allows to provide opportunity for members to share municipal information/news.

17  
18 Potter shared East Montpelier's experience dealing with a 60 day notice that they received that AT&T  
19 for was going to file with the Public Utility Commission for permission to put in cell tower. It is a  
20 controversial project and the second one they have had to address. She noted their Planning  
21 Commission is being pushed to make an amendment to their Town Plan to address cell towers, which is  
22 not a statutory requirement of the plan. She wanted members to be aware that there is a public  
23 advocacy/legal group at the Department of Public Service that can be helpful in navigating this type of  
24 issue and assisting towns to explain the process to community members at public meetings. Hill-  
25 Eubanks suggested having Public Utilities Commission or Department of Public Service come to a future  
26 Board meeting to inform members on the process.

27  
28 Krauth requested having someone from Utilities come in the future to explain what transmission  
29 systems are going to be needed to connect infrastructure for renewable energy (cell towers, windmills,  
30 underground cables, etc.) and address environmental problems that might arise.

## 31 32 **Adjournment**

33 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:07 pm; R. Krauth seconded. Motion carried.*

34  
35 Respectfully submitted,

36  
37 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager