

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
July 13, 2021

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney, Sec’y/Treas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown	Dara Torre
<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
<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 type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Amy Hornblas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Gerry D’Amico, Vice-Chair
<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	VACANT
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Clarice Cutler (Interim)	<input type="checkbox"/>	J. Michael Bridgewater, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	VACANT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Russ Bowen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Steve Lotspeich, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Marcella Dent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Nancy Chartrand, Clare Rock

Guests: Jamie Stewart, CVEDC; David Healy, CVFiber

Call to Order

Chair Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm and conducted a roll call. Quorum was present to conduct business.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None.

Public Comments

None

Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation Update

J. Stewart of Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation advised they are continuing to work on recovery grants and support with businesses that are recovering from the pandemic. They also have a number of businesses reaching out looking to locate facilities in Central Vermont – some very significant in size. He noted that Vermont’s handling of the pandemic has gotten national recognition and resulted in businesses interested in locating here. This could be a significant boost to our economy

1 here in Central Vermont. It will take strong partnerships in the communities to make this all work.

2
3 Discussion ensued regarding the effect of the pandemic on vocational training programs, as well as
4 needs to build a workforce for anticipated fiber projects.

5
6 Stewart noted the staff at CVRPC has been working really hard on the Comprehensive Economic
7 Development Strategy (CEDS) process and advised that Waninger did a great job facilitating a recent
8 CEDS meeting with other CVRPC team members. He believes Central Vermont's meeting had greater
9 attendance than the other regions in the CEDS related to outreach from CVRPC and CVEDC. The CEDS is
10 a two-year process and it is progressing effectively and efficiently. Once complete it should lead to
11 significant resources and program availability.

12 **Communications Union District Service**

13
14 Chair Lotspeich introduced David Healy of CVFiber, the Communications Union District (CUD) for Central
15 Vermont. Healy shared a presentation outlining what CVFiber is currently doing and what they hope to
16 accomplish over the next several years to get fiber to 26,000 homes and businesses. The estimated
17 construction cost is up to \$50M and construction involves 1,200 miles of fiber. He noted their first
18 priority is to make service available to 80% of the unserved and underserved by 2023 and 95% by 2024,
19 subject to funding and contractor availability. COVID-related funding is helping to facilitate this process.
20 He outlined the costs that are anticipated, which has been broken down by the 21 towns in the district.
21 CVFiber plans to complete pole inventories in all towns by the end of 2021. The following CVRPC towns
22 are not in district: Fayston, Warren and Waitsfield.

23
24 Discussion also included ARPA funding and grant opportunities. He noted CVFiber is contacting
25 individual towns related to that funding. A definition of underserved was confirmed as anybody with
26 less than 25mg/second down and 3mg/second up. CVFiber has town by town details regarding service.
27 He was requested to provide Woodbury with their underserved information. They expect \$60-
28 70/month for a subscription rate and hope to provide for low-income subsidies. CVFiber plans to
29 provide presentations to all communities in the coming months.

30
31 It was confirmed that the Vermont Community Broadband Board has been put in place to ensure CUDs
32 are complying with all the rules and that money goes out equitably to provide service to the unserved
33 and underserved. The Mad River towns not part of CVFiber are served with fiber to the home by
34 Waitsfield/Champlain Telecom. There was also discussion regarding the partnership CVFiber has made
35 with Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC) confirming that WEC will pay for distribution fiber and
36 CVFiber will be paying for the drops in the WEC territory.

37
38 It was confirmed that the 600-mile loop connection outlined is not a trunk run, but will provide all
39 services and that the presentation is a confidential document. Also confirmed regarding service for
40 Washington was that CVFiber will do the northwest section of Washington and EC Fiber will do
41 southeast section. Discussion also ensued regarding underground lines.

42
43 It was confirmed that stimulus money for broadband is an eligible use for towns, and CVFiber is
44 discussing options with Towns. He noted that the more grant monies that can be used, the lower

1 subscription costs will be.

2

3 Healy advised he would like to come back again in a few months with an update and was requested by
4 the Town of Woodbury to come speak with its Selectboard.

5

6 **Resolution on Complying with Vermont Open Meeting Law**

7 Chair Lotspeich advised this is an annual resolution related to Open Meeting Law.

8

9 *B. Wernecke moved to approve the resolution; P. Carbee seconded.* It was confirmed that the dates July
10 1 through August 31, 2021 under Section 2 were related to the office construction. *Motion carried.*

11

12 **Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2021**

13 *L. Cattaneo moved to approve the minutes; R. Turner seconded. Motion carried.*

14

15 **Reports**

16 S. Lotspeich noted that Clare Rock did a great consult with Waterbury Planning Commission, providing a
17 good overview of the Commission and various committees and the municipal services CVRPC provides.

18

19 It was requested that Lotspeich do a screen share of the staff and committee reports, which was
20 facilitated and the floor opened to questions.

21

22 P. Emery requested information about ARPA and inquired if the Board is interested in hearing a report
23 on where things stand. Staff advised that Grace Vinson would contact her.

24

25 Discussion also ensued regarding remote versus in-person for the next meeting, which will be confirmed
26 prior to the next meeting.

27

28 N. Chartrand provided a brief update on the landlord funded office renovation which began on July 12th
29 and is anticipated to be completed by August 27th.

30

31 P. Carbee suggested that since the current plan is to hold hybrid meetings, that once the office is redone
32 with new conference room we may be able to hold Board meetings the office instead of renting space.
33 There was also discussion regarding the use of the Chamber space and internet.

34

35 G. Clain requested that the Committees and Appointed Positions document in the packet be amended
36 to reflect “Elected” vs. “Appointed” by Board of Commissioners for those Committees that were part of
37 the election process. Staff will update.

38

39 Clain suggested that Commissioners should start thinking about their fiduciary responsibilities and how
40 it applies to reviewing what the Executive Committee does. This is a bylaw issue that the Bylaw
41 Committee has discussed, and the issue is whether there needs to be any formal acknowledgment of
42 the actions of the Executive Committee that are authorized under the current bylaws. Lotspeich
43 suggested waiting until the draft bylaws are available to the full Board to have the discussion in the
44 context of the bylaws. Clain noted he wanted to give a heads up to Commissioners to read up on their

1 fiduciary responsibilities as a Commissioner and what might be required.

2

3 A discussion ensued regarding the Board of Commissioners meeting for August and if one needs to be
4 held. Lotspeich inquired if there was any critical business to be acted on. It was confirmed that we do
5 not have any formal requests for Municipal Plan Reviews as of this date and if we get one, we have two
6 months to act on it, so could do so in September. Lotspeich queried the Board if they are okay to cancel
7 August meeting and meet next in September. It was confirmed that if something came up in the
8 interim, notice could be sent out that a meeting is necessary. Clain asked why we don't have a meeting
9 in August and Lotspeich advised historically we take a break in August as does the Transportation
10 Advisory Committee. It was also confirmed that the Executive Committee does meet in August. Clain
11 asked if Executive Committee is meeting in August why is Board not meeting seven days after to review
12 what Executive Committee has done. Lotspeich advised he believe those items could be reviewed in
13 September.

14

15 **Adjournment**

16 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:03 pm; L. Cattaneo seconded. Motion carried.*

17

18 Respectfully submitted,

19 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager