

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**Draft MINUTES**  
**May 10, 2022**

**Commissioners:**

|  |                          |  |                           |
|--|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barre City            | Janet Shatney, Sec/Treas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown     | Dara Torre                |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | Vacant, Alt.             | <input type="checkbox"/>                         | Joyce Manchester, Alt     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre Town | George Clain             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield   | Laura Hill-Eubanks        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>            | Mike Gilbar, 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"/>                         | Vacant, Alt.              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury    | Alan Quackenbush         | <input type="checkbox"/> Warren                  | Alexis Leacock            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | David Wendt, Alt.        | <input type="checkbox"/>                         | Vacant, Alt.              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier         | Clarice Cutler (interim) | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington              | Peter Carbee              |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                       | Vacant                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury    | Steve Lotspeich, Chair    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fayston               | Vacant                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown | Richard Turner            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marshfield | Robin Schunk             | <input type="checkbox"/>                         | Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex  | Ron Krauth               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury     | Michael Gray              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montpelier | Marcella Dent            | <input type="checkbox"/> Worcester               | Bill Arrand               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>            | Gabe Lajeunesse, Alt.    |  |                           |

Staff: Bonnie Waninger, Nancy Chartrand

Guests: Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale; Spencer Hardy, East Montpelier (pending CVRPC appointment)

**Call to Order**

Chair Lotspeich called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Quorum was present to conduct business. A roll call was completed following public comment.

**Adjustments to the Agenda**

Waninger advised Senator will be here from 7:00 to 7:15 only. It was also noted that the minutes in the packet are incorrect so review and approval will take place at June meeting. There was discussion on the chat function being turned off so you can only chat with host, not private chats. It was suggested we bring up the chat issue later in the agenda.

**Public Comments**

None.

**FY23 Nominations**

Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the memorandum in the packet. M. Dent provided the following

1 update to the Executive Committee slate, adjusting the at-large positions – removing Marcella Dent and  
2 replacing with Michael Gray. She also noted the Clean Water Advisory Committee had additional  
3 representative interest and they have nominated municipal representative nominees: John  
4 Hoogenboom and John Brabant to fill vacant slots.

5  
6 The floor was opened to additional nominations. R. Wernecke nominated George Clain for an at-large  
7 position on the Executive Committee, which George Clain accepted.

8  
9 Chair Lotspeich advised a ballot would be mailed to all Commissioners and at the June meeting the  
10 ballots will be counted and an announcement of the election results will be made.

11  
12 *G. D’Amico made a motion to close nominations; seconded by R. Krauth. Motion carried.* P. Emery  
13 asked for clarification as to whether the ballot would be mailed or emailed. It was confirmed it would  
14 be mailed with a self-addressed stamped envelope for returning to the office.

### 15 16 **Bylaw Update Introduction**

17 Chair Lotspeich directed the Board to the memorandum in the packet and provided an overview of the  
18 information within the memorandum. It was noted that the packet contained both a tracked changes  
19 version and a clean version (with accepted changes) of the draft Bylaw Update. Chair Lotspeich pointed  
20 out in addition to the memorandum that the Executive Committee met on April 4<sup>th</sup> and they voted to  
21 remove suggested Whistleblower Protection and Indemnification language based on advise B. Waninger  
22 received from legal counsel.

23  
24 It was noted that the Rules of Procedures for all Committees will need to be reviewed and amended to  
25 match the Bylaws once the updated Bylaws have been approved.

26  
27 The procedure for review and approval of the bylaws as outlined in the packet was reviewed.

28  
29 G. D’Amico commented that he believed we were placing the draft on a Board agenda tonight in  
30 accordance with Item A in the memorandum.

31  
32 Due to the arrival of Senator Hinsdale, *G. D’Amico motioned to table further discussion until later in the*  
33 *meeting; seconded by L. Hill-Eubanks. Motion carried.*

### 34 35 **S.148 – An Act Relating to Environmental Justice in Vermont**

36 Chair Lotspeich introduced Senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale, sponsor of the bill being discussed. Senator  
37 Hinsdale advised the governor has had the bill for a number of days and action is expected soon. It has  
38 currently passed the house and senate. She noted that rural environmental injustice looks different  
39 from urban environmental injustice. Heat and flooding vulnerabilities affect different populations  
40 differently. Highlighted were mobile home parks and a statistic that people who live in mobile home  
41 communities in Vermont are 8% of the population, but were 40% of the victims of Tropical Storm Irene.  
42 She encouraged members to ask members of their own communities what environmental issues are  
43 impacting them to help to understand what people are experiencing. She noted the bottom line is that  
44 people should not live in a neighborhood or settlement pattern that is killing them.

1  
2 The bill sets up an advisory group and an inter-agency advisory group to address issues that are  
3 identified and coordinating across the state. A mapping tool is also proposed to highlight the areas  
4 where there are environmental issues, and also proposes to map environmental amenities. This type of  
5 tool will help to underscore disparities so they can be addressed.

6  
7 Discussion was opened and addressed transit challenges and EV hook-up needs. Senator Hinsdale  
8 ended her comments noting it is important that policy is created that is not harming people who are  
9 least able to make a choice during a climate transition. She reminded the Board to listen to the stories  
10 of those who struggle. Senator Hinsdale left the meeting.

11  
12 P. Emery asked if the Board was being requested to do anything regarding the bill. Chair Lotspeich  
13 confirmed it was informational only. M. Gray noted that originally the Board was requested to sign on  
14 to a letter of support while the legislation was being worked on, however, the Board requested more  
15 information before signing anything. The legislation moved on without the Board's initial input. It was  
16 noted that if the bill is signed in to law by the Governor, it would be helpful to have more information  
17 about the impact on municipal government.

18  
19 Additional discussion on dirt road issues, funding distribution, and community engagement ensued. It  
20 was also noted that environmental justice will need to be addressed in both municipal and regional  
21 plans in the future and there will be a need to be advocacy for more money from state agencies to  
22 administer the bill if approved.

## 23 24 **Bylaw Update Introduction (Part 2)**

25 *G. D'Amico made a motion to bring the Bylaw Update Introduction on the table; seconded by A.*  
26 *Quackenbush. Motion carried.*

27  
28 Discussion reopened on the Bylaw amendment introduction. There was clarification that a 60%  
29 affirmative vote of total seats is necessary to pass (not Commissioners present at the meeting where  
30 voting occurs). Additional discussion was held regarding bonding and insurance, as well as Section 305  
31 which is related to attendance.

32  
33 Chair Lotspeich noted we would schedule review for another meeting and take more  
34 questions/comments/proposed amendments at that time.

## 35 36 **Minutes**

37 N/A – see adjustments to agenda.

## 38 39 **Reports**

40 Significant discussion took place regarding the chat function in Zoom. Waninger advised the Board that  
41 the chat becomes part of the public record; and due to private chat not being captured as part of the  
42 chat record, the organization would not have full public record. There was disagreement that private  
43 chat was part of the public record and a request for Waninger to obtain more documentation to be  
44 presented to turn the chat off (perhaps a letter from Jim Condos) and also noted there should be a vote

1 on turning it off or on. It was agreed to keep it turned off until further clarification.

2  
3 Concern was also raised about meetings still be held via Zoom at this juncture and discussion ensued on  
4 that issue. Chair Lotspeich advised that the Executive Committee is discussing returning to hybrid  
5 meetings and expects to have a plan to return to such soon.

6  
7 Chair Lotspeich asked if the Board wanted to put utilization of the chat feature on an upcoming agenda  
8 and it was agreed to do so.

9  
10 G. D'Amico made note that in the reports VAPDA had a presentation by Al Wakefield and Bob Harnish  
11 on the Declaration of Inclusion and suggested we consider having them address the Board on Justice  
12 Equity Diversity and Inclusion. Waninger advised she would invite Al Wakefield and Bob Harnish to a  
13 future meeting if the Board would like. Chair Lotspeich asked that she approach them to come before  
14 the Board.

15  
16 Waninger also advised we are in the processing of checking references for a new Emergency Planner  
17 and updated the Board on the return to office plan. As of April, all staff started working out of the office  
18 one day/week. This month staff is in the office two days/week. In June staff will be returning to the  
19 office three days/week or 60% of their workweek and will be allowed to telecommute two days/week  
20 (40% of their workweek). The plan is for staff to return in June and to fully reopen the office on July 1<sup>st</sup>  
21 with the conference room available for hybrid meetings.

22  
23 There was discussion regarding continuing to use the Chamber of Commerce meeting room to allow for  
24 more space once in-person meetings are initiated. Staff will follow-up on cost of reserving space.

25  
26 **Adjournment**

27 *D. La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:18 pm; L. Cattaneo seconded. Motion carried.*

28  
29 Respectfully submitted,  
30 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager