

Regional Plan Committee September 5, 2023 at 4:00 - 5:20 pm

To join Zoom meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87815276521?pwd=Mmw5U080SGpCTUFNVHZFSERQUII0dz09

Meeting ID: 878 1527 6521, Passcode: 783374 One tap mobile 1(929)436-2866 or 1(301)715-8592

Physical meeting location: 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier (Facial coverings appreciated.)

Persons with disabilities who require assistance or alternate arrangements to participate in programs or activities are encouraged to contact Nancy Chartrand at 802-229-0389 or chartrand@cvregion.com at least 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

page		AGENDA
	4:00 pm ²	Adjustments to the Agenda
		Public Comment
	4:05 pm	Election of Officers
	-	Elect a Chair and Vice-Chair as per Rules of Procedure.
5-8	4:20 pm	Rules of Procedure
		Recommend proposed changes to the committee Rules of Procedure.
9-14	4:35 pm	Approval of Minutes
		Approval of the 4/4/23, 5/2/23, and 6/6/23 minutes.
	4:45pm	New Regional Plan
		Updates on Data Profile, Stakeholder Engagement, Chapter Outlines and
		development of future land use map.
	5:20 pm	Adjourn

Next meeting: October 3, 2023

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¹ Dial-in telephone numbers are "Toll" numbers. Fees may be charged to the person calling in dependent on their phone service.

² All times are approximate unless otherwise advertised

First Tuesdays at 4pm



MEMO

Date: August 31, 2023

To: Regional Plan Committee From: Clare Rock, Senior Planner

Re: September 5, 2023 meeting materials

ACTION REQUESTED: The meeting is primarily an organizational meeting in which Committee members will be tasked with the following actions:

- a. electing officers;
- b. recommending approval of the draft Rules of Procedure; and
- c. approving past meeting minutes.

Other agenda items (New Regional Plan) are for discussion and no specific action is required.

New Regional Plan

Staff will provide updates on the Data Profile, Stakeholder Engagement, and Chapter Outlines.

Update on the HOME Act of 2023, Act 47 (S.100) and regional plan

A couple of provisions contained within the HOME Act, Act 47 (S.100) relate to the development of the regional plan.

a) A change was made to the housing element (24 V.S.A. §4348a Required Elements). §11 of the Act directs DHCD to publish statewide and regional housing targets or ranges as part of the Statewide Housing Needs Assessment (conducted every 5 years) for use by the eleven regional planning commissions in the regional plan's housing element. Regional plans' housing elements must now estimate specific housing needs by municipality and recommend actions that meet needs as part of the 8-year planning cycle.

24 V.S.A. §4348a (elements of a regional plan) as amended:

A housing element that identifies the <u>regional and community-level need for housing</u> for all economic groups in the region and communities. In establishing the identified need, due consideration shall be given to that will result in an <u>adequate supply of building code and energy code compliant homes where most households spend not more than 30 percent of their income on housing and not</u>

more than 15 percent on transportation. To establish housing needs, the

Department of Housing and Community Development shall publish statewide
and regional housing targets or ranges as part of the Statewide Housing Needs
Assessment. The regional planning commission shall consult the Statewide
Housing Needs Assessment; current and expected demographic data; the current
location, quality, types, and cost of housing; other local studies related to
housing needs; and data gathered pursuant to subsection 4382(c) of this title. If
no such data has been gathered, the regional planning commission shall gather
it. The regional planning commission's assessment shall estimate the total
needed housing investments in terms of price, quality, unit size or type, and
zoning district as applicable and shall disaggregate regional housing targets or
ranges by municipality. The housing element shall include a set of recommended
actions to satisfy the established needs.

Subsequent legislation passed during the Legislature's veto session amended the effective dates contained within Act 47. It is our understanding that this new change will apply to our new regional plan. DHCD is in the processes of responding to questions on the new Act and issued Provisional FAQs dated August 14, 2023.

In the above referenced document DHCD indicates that "Regional housing targets will be published in the next Statewide Housing Needs Assessment. Individual municipalities and regional planning commissions (RPC) are encouraged to develop their own housing targets to contribute to the tally and provide a more detailed regional and municipal level view of the housing need." The next Housing Needs Assessment is due to be published in 2025.

And that "Prior to contracting for the next Housing Needs Assessment, the Department welcomes input from the Vermont Association of Planning & Development Agencies, the Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, and the Public Service Department on a methodology to establish targets that will result in an adequate supply of building code and energy compliant homes where most households spend not more than 30 percent of their income on housing and not more than 15 percent on transportation. The regional planning commission is tasked by the Act with gathering data if no such data has been gathered."

Staff has been in contact with VHFA who has indicated willingness to help gather regional housing data.

b) VAPDA has been charged with developing a report that recommends, in part, consistency of all regional future land use plans and polices. §§15-15a. of the Act directs VADPA to produce a report by December 15, 2023 on statutory recommendations to better integrate municipal, regional and state plans, and policies. VAPDA has started work on this and will be seeking input from our RPC Board in the coming months.

The goals of efforts are to:

 More consistently define areas planned for growth through collaborative coordination of municipal and regional plans;

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• Support making delineations of designated planning areas from the state to the regional level to obtain the benefits in the variety of State designation programs;

- Strengthen the weight of regional plans in State capital investment decisions;
- Define areas that should be exempt from Act 250 on the basis of established regional and municipal planning for compact development and provision of infrastructure.

Timeline of process to date:

- A committee/working group was appointed by VAPDA with representatives from Chittenden County RPC, Rutland RPC, and Northeastern VT Development Association.
- The committee reviewed the land use plan language and maps of all RPCs to develop a framework that captures major elements as consistently as possible. Each RPC (staff) provided feedback on this methodology.
- VAPDA is in the process of defining initial core regional land use designations (which will likely include, but not limited to areas such as Urban/Regional Center, Village, Rural, Hamlet, Conservation...etc.)
- By mid/late September VADPA will distribute a draft set of proposed future land use areas to be used by RPCs along with how these designations might interface with State planning designations (i.e. Village Center Designation, Downtown Designation), Act 250 review (and possible areas of Act 250 exemptions), and state capital investment planning (i.e. funding for water/wastewater, transportation.)
- This fall each RPC will be asked to review and comment on VAPDAs core regional land use designations.
- By December 15, 2023 VAPDA is expected to finalize its report.

How CVRPC generally envisions using and applying the proposed statewide future land use areas in its development of CVRPC's regional future land use map and plan:

- 1. Compile all municipal future land use maps;
- 2. Group similar municipal land use districts together;
- 3. Align municipal land use districts with compatible statewide future land use areas;
- 4. Seek feedback and input from municipalities.

Staff is sharing info on this effort with the Regional Plan Committee prior to presenting VAPDA preliminary recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. And is seeking your initial feedback and comments on this process and the possible outcomes of the report.

For more information on Act 47 click here:

https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/resources-rules/planning/HOME

To read DHCD's Preliminary Summary of the HOME Act click here:

https://outside.vermont.gov/agency/ACCD/ACCD_Web_Docs/CD/CPR/Resources-and-Rules/DHCD-Planning-Act47-PreliminarySummary-v2.pdf

To read S.100 click here:

https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2024/Docs/ACTS/ACT047/ACT047%20As%20Enacted.pdf

If you have specific questions about the Act please send your questions directly to DHCD or we can together discuss questions you may have at the meeting next week.

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REGIONAL PLAN COMMITTEE

RULES OF PROCEDURE

December 10, 2019 Date TBD

PURPOSE: To recommend updates to the Central Vermont Regional Plan and to oversee its implementation, support the Board by making recommendations to the Board regarding CVRPC's duties as specified within 24 V.S.A. §4345a(5), preparation of a regional plan and amendments, and implementation of the regional plan.

Commented [NC1]: Amended to conform Bylaws Section 403.D.2

GENERAL ACTIVITIES:

- Oversee development and maintenance of the Regional Plan, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §4347 and the requirements and allowances in 24 V.S.A. §4348(b) and make recommendations for approval to the Board.
- Provide advice and recommendations on plans, policies, programs, budgets, and issues related to Plan implementation.
- Oversee other tasks related to the Regional Plan as assigned by the Board or required or permitted in the Act.
- ◆ Foster public and member municipality engagement in regional planning in the region.
- Encourage intergovernmental cooperation on regionally important planning issues.
- Conduct an annual review of the Central Vermont Regional Plan and recommend updates in accordance with Title 24 Chapter 117 and the needs of the region for consideration by the Board of Commissioners.
- Develop and annually review a Five Year Work Program for the Commission that assists to translate Regional Plan priorities into an annual work program.
- Monitor the Commission's progress in implementing the Regional Plan and Five Year Work Program, report progress to the Board of Commissioners at least annually, and recommend Regional Plan or Work Program modifications as needed.
- Assist the Executive Committee and Board of Commissioners to review and comment on proposed policies, plans, and capital improvements of State Agencies in regards to CVRPC policy, Regional Plan conformance, funding, and project prioritization.
- Participate in special studies conducted by the Commission.
- Provide input and policy recommendations to the Board of Commissioners regarding pertinent land use issues and legislation as time and resources permit.

ADVISORY ROLE: The Regional Plan Committee shall be advisory to the Board of Commissioners. The Regional Plan Committee will offer advice, input, and opinions to the Agency of Commerce and

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Commented [NC2]:} These are the duties outlined in the Bylaws $403.D. \end{tabular}$

29 Main Street Suite 4 Montpelier Vermont 05602 802-229-0389 E Mail: CVRPC@CVRegion.com

Community Development and other organizations and individuals as appropriate, provided it is compatible with plans, policies, positions or resolutions adopted by the Board of Commissioners. Regional Plan Committee advice, input, and opinions may be reviewed, confirmed or reversed by the Board of Commissioners at the Board's discretion. New or amended plans, policies, positions or resolutions shall be ratified/approved by the Board of Commissioners.

MEMBERSHIP: The Regional Plan Committee shall consist of five (5) representatives of the Board members, two (2) of whom may be Alternate Commissioners, who serve one year terms. In the event any member of the Committee is unable to serve, a successor shall be elected using the same process as provided in the case of the original election.

VOTING PROCEDURES: All members are eligible to vote on committee business.

OFFICERS/ELECTIONS: The Regional Plan Committee will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair annually at its first meeting of the fiscal year. The Chair will be responsible for running meetings, setting agendas in conjunction with staff, reviewing and signing correspondence on behalf of the Regional Plan Committee, and representing the Regional Plan Committee at various meetings as needed. The Vice-Chair will provide support to the Chair as needed. If the Chair or Vice Chair should resign before term expiration, an interim election shall be held within two meetings or when regular elections are held, whichever is earlier.

ATTENDANCE AND QUORUMS: A quorum of the Committee shall consist of a majority of members, currently three. Members are encouraged to attend all regular meetings and special meetings as they arise. Members with three consecutive unexplained absences will be contacted by the Chair to determine if they still wish to serve on the Regional Plan Committee. The Regional Plan Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year, or as determined by the Chair to be necessary to carry out the stated purpose.

COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION:

- Meetings shall be noticed and held in accordance with Vermont Open Meeting Law.
- Draft policies and resolutions shall be forwarded to Regional Plan Committee members and interested/affected parties for comment before action by the Regional Plan Committee, or final action/approval by the Board of Commissioners.
- Minutes of all regular and special meetings will be prepared by staff, distributed to Regional Plan Committee members and interested parties, and made available to the public in accordance with open meeting and public records laws described in 1 V.S.A.
- Regional Plan Committee members are encouraged to offer input on all matters before the Committee, and are encouraged to bring up items of local or regional concern for Committee consideration.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Upon joining the Commission or its committees, individuals must review and

Commented [NC3]: Amended to conform with Bylaws Section 403.D.1 and 504.B

Commented [NC4]: Added to conform with Bylaws Section 403.A.3 using language of 403.A.7

Commented [NC5]: Addressed under membership

Commented [NC6]: Updated to conform with language across all ROPs to conform with the Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Policy rather than a separate statement in each ROP

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sign the Commission's most recently adopted Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy to indicate that they have read, understood, and agree to comply with it. In the event any Regional Plan Committee member has a personal or financial interest with any individual, partnership, firm or corporation seeking to contract with the CVRPC, or to provide materials or labor thereto, or has a personal or financial interest in any project being considered by the Regional Plan Committee, the member shall state on the record the nature of his or her interest. If the member feels this conflict interferes with his/her ability to be objective, the member shall not participate in any vote on any related motion. If the member is uncertain whether he/she should participate in the decision, the Regional Plan Committee shall determine by vote whether the member should participate.

The Committee may also make a determination of conflict of interest and disallow voting by a member if the majority of voting Committee members in attendance at the meeting determine a conflict of interest exists.

ADOPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES:

ADOPTION OF ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES: The Regional Plan Committee may, at any time, vote to recommend amendments of these procedures, upon 51% vote of the Committee membership (at least 3 votes in favor). Proposed amendments will then be forwarded to the Executive Committee and interested parties. The Executive Committee then will make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners regarding adoption.

The Regional Plan Committee is a standing committee of the Commission, and is therefore subject to the Commission's bylaws. These Rules of Procedure, combined with Robert's Rules of Order, provide procedural and administrative guidance for the Committee in addition to the Commission's bylaws. In the case of a conflict between these Rules and the Commission's Bylaws, the Bylaws shall take precedence. This document supersedes all other direction, policies, and procedures pertaining to the Regional Plan Committee.

The Regional Plan Committee may, at any time, vote to amend these procedures, upon 51% vote of the Regional Plan Committee membership (at least 3 votes in favor). Proposed amendments will be forwarded to Regional Plan Committee members and interested parties before consideration at a regular Regional Plan Committee meeting. Amendments will then be forwarded to the Board of Commissioners for ratification.

The Regional Plan Committee is a special committee of the Regional Planning Commission, and is therefore subject to the Commission's bylaws. These Rules of Procedure, combined with Robert's Rules of Order, provide procedural and administrative guidance for the Regional Plan Committee.

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Commented [NC7]: Amended to match language in Bylaws Sections 403.A.1, 403.A.3 and standard ROP process

<u>Jerry D'AmicoSteve Lotspeich</u>, Chair CVRPC Board of Commissioners

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION Regional Plan Committee

Draft Minutes

April 4, 2023 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Via Zoom; physical location: Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, VT 05602

Committee Members:

×	M. Gilbar, Barre Town Alternate		
×	J. Ohlsson, Calais Alternate		
×	M. Gray, Woodbury		
	vacant		
	vacant		

Members of the Public: Alice Peal, Waitsfield Alternate Rep; Rich Turner, Williamstown Rep; Mike Miller, Montpelier Alt Rep.; John Brabant, Calais Rep.

Staff: Clare Rock

Attendees introduced themselves. C Rock stated that there are 2 vacant seats on the committee as Laura Hill Eubanks, Northfield, and Dara Torre, Moretown both recently resigned from the CVRPC Board and from this committee. Annual appointments to the committee will be held in June and other Representatives which have expressed interest in serving on the Regional Plan Committee (RPC/committee) were invited to join this meeting as this is the beginning of the regional plan project.

Adjustments to the Agenda

C Rock stated that M Gilbar would be arriving late and until his arrival quorum would not be met. Committee attendees agreed to move voting items (Election of Officers and Adoption of ROP) to the end

15 of the meeting.

Public Comments

J Ohlsson asked if it was ok for one town to have 2 representatives on the committee as there are 2 participants from Calais present. C Rock stated that only 1 is a voting member at this time.

New Regional Plan

C Rock lead the committee through the orientation to regional plan process and went through the items in the materials packet (which included: purpose and statutory authority and requirements; key components of the plan; draft Vision and Aspirations; structure and organization of the plan; stakeholder groups; general timeline.)

A question was raised about whether our SRI definition could be located in a standalone policy document vs being in our region plan. C Rock stated that upon review of other regional plans these are located within the plan, but that this might be an interesting clarification to pursue.

- Questions about the proposed changes to Act 250 and SRI definition were raised discussion followed.
- 32 The SRI definition is idependant from the Act 250 criteria. The Natural Resources Board administers the
- 33 Act 250 criteria, the SRI definition is used by the RPC to define hats types of projects the RPC may weigh

in on when a project is going through the Act 250 permit process.

Mike Gilbar joined the meeting.

J Brabant made comment about using the terms "shall" and "must" and if the plan is to carry weight in the state permitting processes (Act 250/Section 248) we may want to consider use of these terms. Otherwise the overall intent of the plan is for it to be a visionary document.

On the topic of "Vision and Aspirations" some committee members would prefer not to use the terms 'aspirations' as it is to wishy-washy and the term goals should be used instead.

Discussion followed about the wording of the "Vision and Aspirations" statements and included:

 Doesn't like the way the first one is written, would like to see the term 'sustainable' added
 on the housing one: doesn't understand what "stimulate" means; cannot talk about housing without talking about transportation and proximity to jobs; rather than "a range" want to make sure that we understanding the demographics to target the needs; we should look more into this language in light of shared some recent housing statistics and the need to respond to today's materials and consider affordability with incomes.

• on the "healthy and active and connected population."

A couple committee members suggested these aspirations/goals to viewed more as concepts and that at this point we shouldn't get caught up too much in the wordsmithing as they could evolve over the course of writing the plan.

 On the structure of the plan, there is recognition for brevity. The question was raised if we could make links to data and maps so the information would be more dynamic? Staff indicated that this maybe a challenge of capacity, we could address it by building check-ins into the implementation program to annually or semi regularly review recent data to check policies still make sense.

A couple of members feel the chapter heading should be more generic (i.e. just "housing" rather than "a range of housing") so we don't get pigeon holed into a policy-like statement if we need to update the direction of the chapter into the future.

Election of Officers

M Gray would like to withdraw as a future member and asked not be appointed to this committee for
 another term. He recognized the valuable contribution the interested members can bring to the process.
 M Gibar stated that the May meeting would be his last meeting .As the committee will be made up of

many new members in June the voting members agreed it would be best to postpone elections so the new board can start fresh.

M Gilbar made a motion to postpone the election of officers, seconded by J Ohlsson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Rules of Procedure

Staff has some additional changes to this draft and will share at the next meeting for approval.

Adjournment at 5:45 pm

M Gilbar made a motion to adjourn, seconded by J Ohlsson. All in favor. Motion carried.

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION **Regional Plan Committee**

Draft Minutes

May 2, 2023 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Via Zoom; physical location: Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, VT 05602

Committee Members:

×	M. Gilbar, Barre Town Alternate		
	J. Ohlsson, Calais Alternate		
	M. Gray, Woodbury		
	vacant		
	vacant		

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Members of the Public: Mike Miller, Montpelier Alt Rep.; John Brabant, Calais Rep.; Ron Krauth, Middlesex Rep.

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Staff: Clare Rock

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C Rock opened the meeting and stated that there would not be a quorum of members, and that no formal action is expected at this meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to lay groundwork for the regional plan project and once new members are appointed to the Committee next month, work will start in earnest.

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Adjustments to the Agenda

12 None

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Public Comments

None

15 16 17

New Regional Plan

C Rock lead the committee through the orientation to regional plan process and went through the items in the materials packet (which included: structure and organization of the plan; stakeholder groups.)

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Comments on the materials included:

22 23 The *Chapter Outline* makes sense as the current plan is a little disjointed.

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Regarding the Role of the RPC table, there is interest in emphasizing the RPC role in aiding in State-level permit process

25 26 • On Stakeholder Engagement:

section of the plan.

27 28 o If we are including one school supervisory union we should include all those within the C Rock added that there will be an RPC energy working group formed who will be tasked

with calibrating new data and formation on new regional energy targets for the energy

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32 J Brabant bought up S.100 which is working its way through the Legislature this session and that it has 33 some implications on Act 250 thresholds and as a RPC it would good to keep an eye on this to

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understand its possible implications on regional and local planning efforts.

J Brabant asked if CVRPC holds trainings for new SB members as Calais has a new SB. C Rock responded that most the training which have been held are targeted toward PC members and ZAs. The last training was an introduction to Land Use Planning in Vermont and we had some SBs attend. New ED, Christian Meyer will be visiting all SBs and providing them with info about CVRPC. J Brabant requested that CVRPC Reps be informed as to when the ED will be talking with their SBs.

The next meeting agenda will include Election of Officers, approval of the past 2 months of meeting minutes and approval of the Rule of Procedure.

Adjournment at 5:45 pm

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION Regional Plan Committee

Draft Minutes

June 6, 2023 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Via Zoom; physical location: Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission 29 Main Street, Suite 4, Montpelier, VT 05602

Co	ommitte	ee Members:			
		M. Gilbar, Barre Town Alternate			
		J. Ohlsson, Calais Alternate			
		M. Gray, Woodbury			
		vacant			
		vacant			
1					
1	Mem	bers of the Public/anticipated new Committee members: John Brabant, Calais Rep; Ron Krauth,			
2	Midd	lesex Rep; Alice Peal, Waitsfield Alternate Rep; Rich Turner, Williamstown Rep; David Stapleton,			
3	More	town; George Clain, Barre Town Rep.			
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5	Staff:	Clare Rock			
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7		k opened the meeting and stated that there would not be a quorum of members, and that no			
8		al action is expected at this meeting. Members introduced themselves. David Stapleton, Moretown			
9	joine	d the meeting briefly and then signed off before the meeting agenda got underway.			
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11	•	stments to the Agenda			
12	None				
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14		c Comments			
15	None				
16					
17	New	Regional Plan			
18	Comi	munication and Engagement Plan:			
19	No co	omments			
20					
21	Data	Profile:			
22	Clare	introduced the presentation – this is a draft and will send a copy to participants following the			

Clare introduced the presentation – this is a draft and will send a copy to participants following the meeting for review.

Discussion and comments included:

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- Need to add source data to the slides.
- Ron identified that percentages might not show the accurate changes in the town-by-town comparisons as 10 people in one town would = a greater percentage change in a rural town than 10 people in a more rural town. Maybe we should get rid of the percentages along the bottom of pop change chart.
- Alice added that it'll be important to consider the population changes when thinking about new infrastructure.

- Discussion about "why do we need to know place of birth"? brief discussion of anecdotal information about "who is from Vermont" and the notion of "Flat landers" and how it might help provide context for changing the narrative over "that's the way we do things because that's the way its always done." One participant suggests it can be used to describe tension points between different perspectives. Two other participants feel this could be a slippery slope to be interjecting this anecdotal information by assuming some perspectives.
- On median income slide: George asks about adding affordability metrics to compare with the
 median household income. George is interested in knowing what towns are more burdened by
 cost of living.
- John Brabant suggested reaching out to VHFA, we should ask about cost of construction, as information suggests that to make a low-income rental unit currently is over \$500,000. Clare will be following up with VHFA and their offer of assistance with the housing chapter.

Closing comments:

- Need to add the source data, and then consider if the data sources can be added as a link so if people want to look at the full data they can, but that it's not included in the body of the report.
- Re: electric car charges, it would be good to include an assessment of electrical voltage/amps/availability of existing buildings (residential: rental and homeowner) to understand the capacity and capability of electrification of home heating units and car charging.

Next meeting date: July 11th (instead of July 4th.)

Adjournment at 5:30 pm