

**CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
December 12, 2023**

Commissioners:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney, Sec/Treas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moretown	David Stapleton
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joyce Manchester, Alt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre Town	Alice Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Royal DeLegge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Schulz, Alt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Berlin	Robert Wernecke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orange	Lee Cattaneo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karla Nuissl, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	Paula Emery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Brittany Butler	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bob Atchinson, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan Ohlsson, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alice Peal, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	David Wendt, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warren	Alexis Leacock
<input type="checkbox"/> E. Montpelier	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jenny Faillace, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Washington	Peter Carbee, Vice Chair
<input type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waterbury	Doug Greason
<input type="checkbox"/> Marshfield	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Williamstown	Richard Turner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middlesex	Ron Krauth	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacqueline Higgins, Alt.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Osiecki, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Ariane Kissam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.		

Staff: Christian Meyer, Nancy Chartrand, Lincoln Frasca, Brian Voigt, Sam Lash, Reuben MacMartin

Guests:

Call to Order: Chair D'Amico called the meeting to order at 6:31, a roll call was conducted and introductions made. A quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Public Comments: Christian Meyer reminded members that we welcome their in-person participation, however, noted our elevator is still awaiting repair from damages related to the flood.

Committee Appointments: Lee Cattaneo, Chair of the Nominating Committee, provided an overview of the recommendation of the committee to fill current open seats on the Brownfields Committee, Regional Plan Committee and Clean Water Advisory Committee. The floor was opened to further nominations for each seat, with none being heard.

Lee Cattaneo moved to appoint Alice Farrell (Barre Town) to the Brownfields Committee, seconded by Ron Krauth. Motion passed unanimously.

1
2 *Lee Cattaneo moved to appoint Alice Peal of Waitsfield as a municipal representative to the Clean Water*
3 *Advisory Committee, seconded by David Stapleton. Motion passed unanimously.*
4

5 *Lee Cattaneo moved to elect Doug Greason (Waterbury) to the Regional Plan Committee, seconded by David*
6 *Stapleton. Motion passed unanimously.*
7

8 **Winooski Basin Tactical Basin Plan Conformance Letter:** Brian Voigt, Senior Natural Resources Planner,
9 provided a brief overview of the 2023 draft Winooski Basin Tactical Basin Plan and the process it has gone
10 through at the Commission and before the Clean Water Advisory Committee, Regional Plan Committee, and
11 Board. John Brabant raised concerns related to land application of sewage sludges that contain PFAS/PFAOS
12 contaminants on farmlands. It was noted that he had previously raised these concerns in Committee and
13 provided email comment to DEC Basin Planner Keith Fritschie, which was also shared with all Board members.
14 Significant discussion ensued related to this topic and failing wastewater treatment infrastructure. It was
15 confirmed that Keith Fritschie is currently addressing any changes relative to the comments. This resulted in
16 question as to how can we vote on conformance if changes can be made subsequent to our approval and
17 suggested we wait until the public process is complete and vote at that point on conformance.
18

19 *John Brabant moved to table the vote until such time as the plan is in its final draft form incorporating all*
20 *changes relative to the public comments received by ANR, seconded by Royal DeLegge. Motion passed*
21 *unanimously.*
22

23 **Waitsfield Municipal Plan Approval & Confirmation of Planning Process & Certificate of Energy Compliance:**
24 Bill Arrand, Chair of the Municipal Plan Review Committee, provided an overview of the hearing the committee
25 held on November 13, 2023 and their recommendations to approve the plan and planning process and issue a
26 determination of energy compliance for the Town of Waitsfield.
27

28 It was clarified that the Committee found that the Town provided compelling evidence that it had made
29 progress towards each of the state planning goals, including the childcare goals but had not documented that
30 progress in the Plan, and that in addition to recommending the Commission approve the Waitsfield Town Plan,
31 confirm the Town's planning process and issue an affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance for the
32 *Waitsfield Town Plan*, it is also recommended the Commission direct staff to write a letter to the Town stating
33 that the Town will need to document progress on meeting childcare goals in the Town Plan for the Commission
34 to confirm the Town's planning process in 2027.
35

36 *Lee Cattaneo moved to adopt the resolution that approves the 2023 Waitsfield Town Plan and planning process*
37 *as outlined and instruct the Chair to sign the resolution, seconded by Robert Wernecke. Motion passed*
38 *unanimously.*
39

40 *John Brabant moved to issue an affirmative determination of energy compliance for the 2023 Waitsfield Town*
41 *Plan and authorize the Chair to sign the determination, seconded by David Stapleton. Motion carried*
42 *unanimously.*
43

VAPDA Regional Future Land Use Initiative: Christian provided an overview of this process as it has been presented to the Regional Plan Committee and the Board throughout the drafting of this report. We are not looking for a motion to confirm the plan, rather to collect comments to build into a document to be presented to Legislature. It was noted other organizations such as Agency of Transportation, Agency of Natural Resources, Vermont Planners Association, and Vermont League of Cities & Towns have also submitted significant comments on the document in addition to Regional Planning Commissions throughout the state.

It was pointed out that the timeframe for any changes like this to take effect would be 5+ years, therefore it won't have any current impact on our Regional Plan Update. It was reiterated that it was an open document.

VAPDA Act 250 Local Delegation Report: Christian provided an overview of the report which was provided in the packet. Section 18a of Act 47 instructed the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies to develop a proposed framework for delegating administration of Act 250 permits to municipalities who would like that responsibility. The proposed framework is meant to streamline the Act 250 permitting process for municipalities that have modernized their planning and permitting capacity in the 50 years since Act 250 was created. The report shall be provided to the House committee on Environmental and Energy and the senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy on or before December 31, 2023.

Significant discussion ensued regarding concerns of ceding this type of regulation to municipalities, rather than the State which has better resources to address than individual municipalities do. There was also comment made that there are redundancies in the processes that some municipalities and Act 250 have, and this may be a move in the right direction.

It was noted that individual comments are welcome which Christian will combine into one document and provide to CCRPC who is spearheading this process. In January the Commission can work to coalesce on one message after the comments are submitted and a draft presented to the Legislature.

Clarice Cutler noted a public meeting is scheduled to be held Thursday evening, hosted by the Natural Resources Board, and a link was shared in the chat and provided to Commissioners following the meeting.

Introduction to Climate Pollution Reduction Grant: Sam Lash, Climate and Energy Planner, provided information on work the Regional Planning Commission will be doing related to the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. She is requesting that Commissioners assist in reaching out to towns to obtain information and provided an overview of the information in the packet. There was a request to brainstorm ideas for priorities to be addressed through this process and what projects would towns like to do that are important for community resilience that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions or be impactful with regard to sequestration.

It was reiterated that this was an introduction to the project and that Sam will be following up with municipal stakeholders to discuss unmet needs that may be potentially prioritized. We are preparing an initial list and will then be going back to municipalities for additional input. It is anticipated that this input may be needed prior to January 15th, please be on the lookout for emails from her.

Minutes – (10/10/23 & 11/14/23)

1 *Robert Wernecke moved to accept the minutes of October 10th, seconded by John Brabant. Motion passed*
2 *unanimously.*

3
4 *Lee Cattaneo moved to accept the minutes of November 14th, seconded by Robert Wernecke. Motion passed*
5 *unanimously.*

6
7 **Reports (October & November):** Christian noted that a discussion is being planned in January to reintroduce
8 the Clean Water Service Provider program. Christian also advised that in addition to our new senior
9 transportation planner Reuben MacMartin, that we have a new community planner starting on January 2nd.
10 Alice Peal advised she has been working on her assignment to review the list of flood priorities presented at the
11 last meeting and reviewed with the Regional Plan Committee. There will be a full report at the next Board of
12 Commissioners meeting.

13
14 *John Brabant moved to accept the reports as submitted in the packet, seconded by Robert Wernecke. Motion*
15 *carried unanimously.*

16
17 **Adjournment**

18 *Robert Wernecke moved to adjourn at 8:15 pm; seconded by John Brabant. Motion carried unanimously.*
19
20

21 Respectfully submitted,
22 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager
23