

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
January 9, 2024

Commissioners:

<input 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Duxbury	Alan Quackenbush	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alice Peal, Alt.
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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, Will Pitkin

Guest: Renee (East Montpelier resident)

Call to Order: Chair D'Amico called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm, a roll call done and quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Public Comments: None

Open Meeting Law Resolution: *Robert Wernecke moved to adopt the open meeting law resolution, seconded by Don La Haye. Chair D'Amico read the resolution. Vote was called and motion passed unanimously.*

Nominations and Election for Nominating Committee: Christian reviewed the memorandum that was included in the meeting packet, outlining the role of the nominating committee. We are looking for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee to nominate officers and committee members for FY25. The Chair asked for volunteers from the floor. Robert Wernecke, Jerry D'Amico and Michael Gray volunteered. Hearing no more, the floor was closed.

1 *John Brabant moved the slate of volunteers (Robert Wernecke, Jerry D'Amico, and Michael Gray) as nominees,*
2 *seconded by David Stapleton. Motion carried.*
3

4 **CVRPC Clean Water Service Provider Presentation:** Brian Voigt, Senior Natural Resources Planner, shared a
5 presentation (available on the website and video) outlining the Winooski Basin Clean Water Service Provider
6 (CWSP) Program, which is focused on reducing phosphorus in the Winooski Basin. He shared its background, the
7 role of the CWSP and the Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC), results of the original start up grant, and current
8 engagement of the formula grants and status of pre-qualifying subcontractors, as well as engineers and
9 construction firms. He outlined project types and the need for projects to be cost effective to meet the annual
10 reduction target. Highlighted was a recently approved project for berm removal on John Fowler Road in
11 Marshfield which is a low-cost high reduction project. There was discussion related to CVRPC's ability to
12 propose projects, which Brian confirmed we are able to do. Also discussed was whether or not there are
13 incentives for landowners to participate in the program. It was confirmed participation is not incentivized, nor is
14 it state mandated.
15

16 *Alice Farrell joined the meeting at ~ 7:15*
17

18 **Project Review Committee Update:** Christian Meyer advised the Project Review Committee met last week to
19 review a preferred siting request on Comstock Road in Berlin. The project was reviewed and found in
20 conformance with the regional plan. Both Berlin's Planning Commission and Selectboard have endorsed the
21 project and the Project Review Committee moved to assign regional approval of preferred siting for the project.
22

23 **CVRPC Act 250 Position:** Christian Meyer provided an overview of the memorandum in the packet and shared a
24 presentation (available on website and video). He noted he was trying to determine if there is a shared position
25 of the Commission on this topic; and how our regional plan and Act 250 can be complementary. First reviewed
26 was the Natural Resources Board Necessary Update to Act 250 report which presents options for different tiers
27 of Act 250 jurisdiction. Also shared was the VAPDA Regional Planning Report which recommends developing a
28 core set of statewide land use designations and use those to inform eligibility for the state designation program
29 and Act 250 review, as well as develop an approval process for regional plans where they will have authority in
30 determining allocation of benefits or determinations. In addition, the VT Designation 2050 report by ACCD was
31 shared, which recommends a shift from five designations to one core designation with optional add-ons such as
32 neighborhood area or development ready. The VAPDA Municipal Delegation Report was also mentioned. This
33 report was requested by the City of Burlington and explores the municipality being delegated the responsibilities
34 of overseeing Act 250 locally. It was confirmed the slides will be shared with Commissioners as well as posted
35 on our website.
36

37 Christian presented the following questions for discussion:

- 38 • Does Act 250 help advance the regional planning as defined in statute and in our regional plan?
- 39 • Could Act 250 better support regional planning?
- 40 • Does the Commission support the findings of any of these studies?
- 41 • Are there specific recommendations the Commission would like to make to improve how Act 250 is
- 42 applied?
43

1 Significant discussion ensued related to the proposed tiers with concerns raised specific to Tier 1 not allowing
2 regional impact to be considered. There were also concerns raised related to forest preservation and
3 fragmentation, increased allowance of housing units, fee structure, housing affordability and adjusting the
4 affordability standard. There was comment on the importance of Act 250 in constraining development that
5 could harm critical habitat as well as allowing municipalities, organizations and individuals a voice in the process.
6 It was suggested that staff consider scheduling a full meeting for discussion of the Act 250 topic rather than a
7 portion of a meeting.

8
9 A member of the public suggested that Commission members view the video of the public meeting held to
10 review the NRB Necessary Update to Act 250 report which is available on their website.

11
12 **Flood Recovery & Mitigation Priorities Update:** Chair D'Amico commended staff and the Regional Plan
13 Committee for working on this project. Christian Meyer provided an overview of the information as outlined in
14 the packet. Alice Peal shared information was discussed by the Regional Plan Committee over two meetings and
15 her desire that all the agencies come up with a cohesive plan to address the mitigation priorities suggested. It
16 was noted that defining where we should not be building based on flood hazards should be part of the ongoing
17 Act 250 discussion; and that FEMA will be coming out with new guidelines on flood hazard areas and that the
18 Regional Plan will include this information.

19 Lee Cattaneo suggested the item on "Floodplain Recovery, Reconnection and Expansion" also include
20 'regulation'.

21 *John Brabant moved to approve the list of flood planning and mitigation priorities, including incorporating*
22 *regulation as suggested by Lee Cattaneo; seconded by Lee Cattaneo. The vote was called and had one*
23 *abstention. A roll call was conducted. Barre City – not present, Barre Town – yes, Berlin – abstain, Cabot – not*
24 *present, Calais – yes, Duxbury – yes, East Montpelier – yes, Fayston – seat vacant, Marshfield – seat vacant,*
25 *Middlesex – yes, Montpelier – not present, Moretown – yes, Northfield – yes, Orange – yes, Plainfield – yes,*
26 *Roxbury – yes, Waitsfield – yes, Warren – yes, Washington – yes, Waterbury – yes, Williamstown – yes,*
27 *Woodbury – yes, Worcester – yes. Motion carried with 17 ayes and one abstention.*

28 **Minutes – (12/12/23) :** Lee Cattaneo moved to accept the minutes of December 12, seconded by Lexi Leacock.
29 *Motion passed unanimously.*

30
31 **Reports:** New Community Planner Will Pitkin was introduced to the Board of Commissioners. Christian also
32 highlighted the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) being handled by Eli Toohey who is working
33 with municipalities pre-specified by the State and it is anticipated good projects will be facilitated for the 10
34 municipalities identified in our region by the State.

35
36 *Peter Carbee moved to accept the staff and committee reports, seconded by Paula Emery. Motion carried*
37 *unanimously.*

38
39 **Adjournment:** Don La Haye moved to adjourn at 8:26 pm; seconded by Lee Cattaneo. Motion carried.

40
41 Respectfully submitted,
42 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager