

1 **CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
2 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
3 **Draft MINUTES**
4 **April 9, 2024**

5 **Commissioners:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barre City	Janet Shatney, Sec/Treas	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Plainfield	Paula Emery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Brittany Butler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bob Atchinson, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/> Calais	John Brabant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roxbury	Jerry D'Amico, Chair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Melanie Kehne, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fayston	Andrew McNealus	<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 type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Ariane Kissam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Miller, Alt.		

6
7 Staff: Christian Meyer, Nancy Chartrand, Eli Toohey, Sam Lash, Will Pitkin

8 Guests: Josh Hanford, Vermont League of Cities & Towns

9
10 **Call to Order:** Chair D'Amico called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, a roll call was completed and quorum was
11 present.

12
13 **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None

14
15 **Public Comments:** Chair D'Amico and Christian Meyer shared comments about an upcoming Health Equity
16 Workshop that CVRPC is hosting on 4/17; that CVRPC will be at the Waterbury LEAP fair on 4/13, and that the
17 organization is currently recruiting for summer interns for field work.

18
19 Robert Wernecke, Michael Miller, and Alice Farrell joined after roll call.

20
21 **VLCT Legislative Update:** Chair D'Amico introduced Josh Hanford of Vermont League of Cities & Towns who
22 provided members with a legislative update. He reviewed the VLCT municipal priorities document that was
23 shared and posted prior to the meeting. He shared details on several bills that VLCT is following and also
24 providing testimony on. Some of these include H.629 – property tax abatements; S.55 - open meeting law;

1 H.612 - cannabis amendments; H.875 - municipal and statewide ethics. Disaster response and public safety bills
2 were also discussed. Also of particular interest are two bills related to housing and Act 250 reform – H.687 and
3 S.311, which will likely be merged. It is anticipated that work on these will continue through the end of the
4 session before it is known what changes to Act 250 will result.

5
6 Questions and discussion from the floor included the statewide reappraisal process, Act 250 impacts on
7 municipalities and designated downtowns and open meeting law.

8
9 A video of the meeting and the discussion is available on CVRPC’s website at:

10 <https://centralvtplanning.org/about/minutes-agendas-staff-reports/board-of-commissioners/>

11
12 **Regional Plan Re-adoption Assessment Report:** Christian Meyer provided an overview of the information
13 outlined in the packet to begin the public hearing process for the re-adoption of the 2016 regional plan with
14 submission of a Proposed Regional Plan Assessment Report in order to extend our time frame to complete a full
15 update of the plan. Hearings have been scheduled more than 30 days apart in order to allow time to integrate
16 any comments received at the first hearing. The first hearing is scheduled for May 14th and the second hearing is
17 scheduled for July 9th in order to re-adopt the 2016 plan.

18
19 Alice Peal, Chair of the Regional Plan Committee advised that the Committee supported the plan for re-adoption
20 of the current plan to allow more time to create a quality updated Regional plan that incorporates the initiatives
21 that are coming from legislature and other entities.

22
23 There was brief discussion related to the methodology being used for housing units and whether or not
24 municipalities could sustain the growth outlined.

25
26 *Robert Wernecke moved to accept the Regional Plan Committee’s recommendation for CVRPC staff to*
27 *commence the public hearing process for the Proposed Regional Plan Assessment Report. Brittany Butler*
28 *seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

29
30 In follow-up Chair D’Amico shared his concerns related to the housing issue being impacted by rental properties
31 and tenant issues. Ron Krauth commented on how energy storage is being referenced.

32
33 **Brownfields Project Review:** Eli Toohey, Community Development Planner provided an overview of the
34 information provided in the meeting packet. Due to not being able to get a quorum of the Brownfields Advisory
35 Committee we are requesting the Board to act on a proposed project. There is an opportunity to use
36 Brownfields funding for a project that is proposed in Cabot at the Clark’s Sawmill. The dam was heavily
37 damaged in the flood and the town is proposing to buy the property, and return it to the floodplain and a green
38 space. A new phase I is needed as the previous one conducted in 2018 is not applicable to the current proposed
39 sale due to being more than 6 months old.

40
41 Christian Meyer advised it was appropriate for this body to be giving staff the go ahead on this project. Peter
42 Carbee advised the Brownfields Advisory Committee members who were at the meeting discussing the project,
43 were all in favor even though they were short of a quorum and recommend that the commission approve the
44 project.

1
2 *Lee Cattaneo moved to approve use of State Brownfields Revitalization Grant Assessment funding, not to exceed*
3 *\$20,000, to be used for a Phase I Environmental Assessment of the 63 Sawmill Road property in Cabot, Vermont.*
4 *Seconded by Robert Wernecke. Bob Atchinson asked what the chemicals were that were at the sawmill. Eli*
5 *advised there were a number of factories and mill operations throughout the years at the dam site – woolen*
6 *mill, box factory, sawmill. Ron Krauth advised he could not make the Brownfields Advisory Committee meeting*
7 *and noted he was in favor of approving the project. The vote was called and passed unanimously.*
8

9 **Minutes – (3/12/24)** *Don LaHaye moved to accept the minutes of March 12th, seconded by Robert Wernecke.*
10 *Motion passed unanimously.*
11

12 **Reports:** Christian Meyer made note of Sam’s work to complete the energy element for the re-adoption
13 assessment; he also noted that Keith is working on multiple hazard mitigation plans; in transportation we are
14 kicking off a safety action plan that municipalities will be able to use for federal transportation funding; and in
15 community planning we have a new staff member and are participating in consultations and project review
16 committee work. Sam reminded members that the mini-grants for MERP close May 31st and there are four
17 towns that can still apply and she will help them do so. Bob Atchinson thanked Sam for her work with Plainfield.
18

19 *Janet Shatney moved to accept the staff report, seconded by Peter Carbee. Motion passed unanimously.*
20

21 *Janet Shatney moved to accept the committee report, seconded by Peter Carbee. Motion passed unanimously.*
22

23 Chair D’Amico welcomed Andrew McNealus, new representative from Fayston.
24

25 **Adjournment:** *Don La Haye moved to adjourn at 7:44 pm; seconded by Bob Atchinson. Motion carried.*
26

27 Respectfully submitted,
28 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager
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