

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

5 **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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Melanie Kehne, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	David Wendt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Alice Peal, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>		Vacant	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Worcester	Bill Arrand
<input type="checkbox"/>		Vacant			

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

8
9 **Call to Order:** Chair D'Amico called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, a roll call was completed and a quorum was
10 present.

11 **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None

12 **Public Comments:** None

13
14 **Regional Plan Hearing | Re-Adoption:** Chair D'Amico called the hearing to order and advised that the purpose of
15 tonight's hearing is to get input from the public and Commissioners on the re-adoption of the CVRPC Regional
16 Plan. He also read the memo in the hearing packet.

17
18 The floor was opened to comments. John Brabant stated that the changes to the energy element represented
19 significant changes to the 2016 plan and recommended that the Board vote against the re-adoption. Staff
20 advised that the changes in the energy element were made to meet State statute. John wanted to know if it
21 was clear that the energy element was part of the re-adoption process. Climate and Energy Planner Sam Lash
22 outlined the outreach that was conducted prior to inclusion of the energy element in the re-adoption. Christian
23 advised that the full plan assessment report with necessary amendments for the re-adoption was provided to
24 and reviewed with the Regional Plan Committee and Board of Commissioners in April when the process was

1 initiated. In addition, several Commissioners made note that it was clear in the information provided and
2 discussed at past meetings that the energy element was included in the re-adoption and why.

3
4 Further discussion ensued related to process and participation. It was noted the element narrows the updates
5 that are needed in municipal plans and that staff has done a good job providing information related to the
6 energy element. Comment was provided that use of the word re-adoption was misleading due to the major
7 changes to the energy element. Additional details were provided outlining the energy element outreach that
8 has occurred and a willingness to continue engagement during the 2025 Regional Plan update process. Christian
9 further advised the process was developed in concert with DHCD and how other regions have done these re-
10 adoptions, and as part of that process CVRPC needed to write the Regional Plan Assessment Report and identify
11 areas where there need to be updates, understanding that there will be necessary changes included while
12 readopting. It was clarified that the 2025 Regional Plan is currently being worked on and the Energy Chapter will
13 continue to be worked on by the Regional Plan Committee. Also noted was if the amended energy element is
14 not included in the re-adoption, we won't be able to approve any municipal enhanced energy plans for our
15 towns, and our determination of energy compliance for the Act 248 process will lapse unless our plan is updated
16 to the new standards. There was a request to table the vote until September's meeting to give the Board more
17 time to read and understand the re-adoption and publish a new notice that makes clear that an amendment to
18 the energy element is part of the re-adoption.

19
20 *John Brabant moved to table the vote until September's meeting, seconded by Ron Krauth. The following roll call*
21 *vote was completed: Barre City - No; Barre Town - not present; Berlin - No, Cabot - No, Calais - Yes, Duxbury -*
22 *No, East Montpelier - No, Fayston - No, [Marshfield – seat vacant], Middlesex - Yes, Montpelier - No, Moretown -*
23 *No, Northfield - No, Orange - No, Plainfield - Yes, Roxbury - No, Waitsfield - No, Warren – not present,*
24 *Washington - No, Waterbury - No, Williamstown - No, Woodbury - No, Worcester – No. The motion failed with 3*
25 *yes and 17 no votes.*

26
27 *Robert Wernecke moved to readopt the CVRPC Regional Plan with the Energy Element, seconded by Peter*
28 *Carbee. Melanie Kehne asked whether the meeting had been properly warned as an amendment vs. a re-*
29 *adoption. Peter Carbee noted that at the April 9th meeting when Sam made her presentation, there were 21*
30 *members of the Board present. Staff read the public warning that was published in the paper and it was noted*
31 *that the Regional Plan Assessment Report that was included in the notice is the report that contains all the*
32 *information related to the changes to the energy element. John noted he felt there was a defect in the regional*
33 *plan re-adoption public notice. The vote was called and the following roll call vote was completed: Barre City -*
34 *Yes; Barre Town - not present; Berlin - Yes, Cabot – Yes, Calais - No, Duxbury - Yes, East Montpelier - Yes, Fayston*
35 *- Yes, [Marshfield – seat vacant], Middlesex - No, Montpelier - Yes, Moretown - Yes, Northfield - Yes, Orange -*
36 *Yes, Plainfield - No, Roxbury - Yes, Waitsfield - Yes, Warren – not present, Washington - Yes, Waterbury - Yes,*
37 *Williamstown - Yes, Woodbury - Yes, Worcester – Yes. The motion passed with 17 yes and 3 no votes.*

38
39 John Brabant explained his vote, noting he does not oppose the language, but opposes the process. He believes
40 that it was not clear that the warning noted the extent of changes to the plan in addition to re-adoption of the
41 plan. He noted he believed the Commission should have given the vote another month for everyone to read it
42 and understand what they are voting on.

1 Sam Lash reiterated that she is working with all the Towns while continuing the update to the 2025 Regional
2 Plan and welcomed participation and engagement.

3
4 **Work Program and Budget Presentation:** Christian Meyer provided an overview of the memorandum outlined
5 in the packet. He made note of the organization being fully staffed with 10 employees and a plan to add an
6 Assistant Planner and Finance Manager to the staff. He noted the Clean Water Service Provider continues to
7 grow and the budget has been adjusted to reflect overbudgeting of that program last year. Flood recovery
8 continues to be a big part of our work, including providing municipalities with assistance in securing funding
9 through the HMPG program. We have also successfully applied for transportation funding for a safety action
10 plan which all towns will be able to leverage for USDOT funding.

11
12 **Regional Plan Update:** Christian Meyer provided an overview of the information provided in the meeting packet
13 on the status of the 2025 Regional Plan update. Roles and expectations between Regional Plan Committee and
14 staff have been clearly outlined and work is progressing on the rewrite of the 2025 Regional Plan. We will
15 continue to provide chapter information to Commissioners in advance for their review and comment. It was
16 also noted that additional requirements will be part of the Regional Plan update due to the passing of H.687. It
17 was also clarified that the full Commission gets all Committee agendas which outline what is being reviewed at
18 each meeting. It was also noted that there will be a recurring item on each Board agenda with updates on the
19 2025 Regional Plan as to where we are and what's coming next.

20
21 **Municipal Energy Resilience Program Update:** Sam Lash provided a brief update on the Municipal Energy
22 Resilience Program (MERP). She noted that 22 of 23 municipalities received \$4000 Mini-Grants for energy and
23 climate planning, and capacity building at the local level. Sam offered her assistance to the municipalities to
24 assist with reporting related to these mini grants. She also noted that 20 of 23 municipalities applied for and
25 were approved for energy assessments totaling 49 buildings overall (47 have been completed). Some
26 municipalities are still waiting on the consultant reports of these assessments. Sam offered support to
27 municipalities for project scoping, implementation applications, as well as identifying additional funding for
28 projects. She advised that the Implementation application should be released soon. She also noted that a new
29 grant program was just announced and additional information will be going out in this week's newsletter. A
30 copy of her presentation is available on the website. A brief discussion on biomass followed.

31
32 **Legislative Update – H.687** Christian Meyer provided an overview of the information provided in the meeting
33 packet reiterating that the future land use maps and the new tier structure will create a lot of change in our
34 2025 Regional Plan. Discussion ensued related to the timing of plan updates and tier structure effective dates as
35 well as the different tier structures.

36
37 **Minutes – (6/11/24):** *Robert Wernecke moved to accept the minutes of June 11th with minor typographical*
38 *errors corrected, seconded by Ron Krauth. Motion passed unanimously.*

39
40 **Reports:** Christian Meyer noted that Green Mountain Transit is looking to cut services in Chittenden County
41 due to a deficit of funds, and while Washington County is not impacted by this planned cut, it is only a matter of
42 time before these financial constraints trickle down into our region. He requested that Commissioners share
43 any thoughts and concerns with him and he will share with the GMT Board. Christian also noted we are
44 launching an Additional Dwelling Unit (ADU) design program which will help a few property owners in Central

1 Vermont get conceptual designs and budgets to convert part of an existing structure into an Accessory Dwelling
2 Unit. Community Development Planner Eli Toohey is working on this program and more information will be
3 shared soon. There was also discussion about creating a better mechanism to know when VHIP grants are
4 available so municipalities can be made aware.

5 It was confirmed that the Barre City Infill Study presentation shared at the June meeting is available on the
6 website.

7

8 *Don La Haye moved to accept the reports, seconded by Peter Carbee. Motion passed unanimously.*

9

10 **Adjournment:** *Don La Haye moved to adjourn at 7:59 pm; seconded by Lee Cattaneo.*

11

12 Respectfully submitted,

13 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager

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DRAFT