

1 **CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**
2 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
3 **Draft MINUTES**
4 **September 10, 2024**

5 **Commissioners:**

<input 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 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"/>		Melanie Kehne, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waitsfield	Don La Haye
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duxbury	David Wendt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Warren	Alice Peal, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>		Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington	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"/>	Waterbury	Peter Carbee, Vice Chair
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fayston	Andrew McNealus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Williamstown	Doug Greason
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marshfield	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Woodbury	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"/>	Worcester	Michael Gray
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Montpelier	Mike Miller, Alt.			Bill Arrand
<input type="checkbox"/>		Vacant			

6
7 Staff: Christian Meyer, Sam Lash, Lincoln Frasca, Eli Toohey, Niki Sabado Will Pitkin

8
9 **Call to Order:** Chair D'Amico called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm, a roll call was completed, and a quorum
10 was present.

11 **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None

12 **Public Comments:** None

13
14 **Open Meeting Law Follow-up:**

15 C. Meyer summarized CVRPC's response to the allegations of Open Meeting Law violation following the July
16 2024 special meeting. It was determined that CVRPC had not violated Open Meeting Law as alleged.

17
18 Chair D'Amico read to the commissioners the most important points of CVRPC's letter of response to the
19 complainant. The full letter is posted on CVRPC's website.

20
21 **Open Meeting Law Resolution Amendment:**

22 C. Meyer summarized the proposed amendment to CVRPC's Open Meeting Law Resolution, as detailed in the
23 meeting packet. This modification would include changing certain committees' meeting schedules publishing the

1 schedules. R. Wernecke moved to adopt the amendment, L. Cattaneo seconded. No discussion. All in favor,
2 motion passed.

3

4 **Readopted Energy Element Crosswalk:**

5 C. Meyer explained the intent of the energy element crosswalk between goals and strategies in the 2016
6 Regional Plan as amended and the goals and strategies of the energy element in the 2024 Regional Plan, then
7 broadly summarized the changes to the goals and strategies. The Regional Plan Committee will review the
8 Energy draft chapter of the upcoming Regional Plan rewrite at the 10/15/2024 meeting.

9

10 A. Peal discussed renewable energy siting constraints in the Waitsfield Town Plan; S. Lash discussed mapping
11 procedures to determine areas that have high potential for energy generation infrastructure and constraints
12 that limit energy infrastructure siting (including state constraints, regional constraints, and local constraints).
13 Discussion included factors that would enable energy development and help determine preferred site types.

14

15 J. Brabant reiterated concerns that previous restrictions on wind turbine hub height are no longer present in the
16 2024 Regional Plan. P. Emery asked how to provide feedback directly; best method is to email S. Lash directly
17 and CC Regional Plan Committee chair A. Peal. J. Brabant opined that wind energy generation, because it needs
18 to be sited on ridgelines to be financially viable, always has a regional impact beyond only in the host
19 municipality; M. Gray agreed.

20

21 **Regional Plan Chapter Review – Economy:**

22 C. Meyer gave context on the regional plan review process in which the Regional Plan Committee reviews draft
23 chapters, staff incorporates committee feedback, then the full Board of Commissioners reviews a more
24 advanced draft. Tonight’s review of the Economy draft chapter is the first such full commission review.

25

26 N. Sabado presented on staff’s and the Regional Plan Committee’s progress to date and priorities moving
27 forward in developing the draft chapter, along with areas where staff are especially seeking commissioners’
28 input.

29

30 L. Cattaneo commented that using “shall” and other mandatory language in a document typically would be
31 followed by a definition of the consequences for non-conformance. C. Meyer stated that Peter Gregory, the
32 executive director of Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission, spoke on the use of mandatory language
33 vs. advisory language at the 9/4/2024 Regional Plan Committee meeting. Meeting minutes are available on
34 CVRPC’s website.

35

36 Regional Plan Committee members (A. Peal, A. Farrell, and D. Greason) provided further information from that
37 discussion. D. Greason also referenced a Natural Resources Board (NRB) training manual (in the 9/4/2024
38 Regional Plan Committee meeting packet) that provided instruction for how NRB employees evaluate
39 mandatory language and advisory language (AKA guidance language) when reviewing proposed developments
40 for conformance with regional and municipal plans.

41

42 A. Farrell spoke about the economic impact of career centers and requested further information on educational
43 resources in the region and requested more information about the relationship between the region’s aging

1 population and the housing shortage. P. Emery agreed that housing that is appropriate for aging populations
2 should be a priority to the region.

3
4 **Programs Update (MERP, GMT, Flood Prevention Group):**

5 **MERP:**

6 S. Lash provided updates on the Municipal Energy Resilience Program, including a recently-announced policy
7 change from the VT Department of Buildings and General Services that limited the number of towns that are
8 eligible for no-match grants; four towns in the region (Barre City, Cabot, Worcester, and Plainfield) remain
9 eligible and staff are continuing to work with those towns to advance eligible projects. S. Lash emphasized that
10 other funding sources will continue to be available, even with this unexpected policy shift, and staff will continue
11 to work with towns to find alternative funding sources for projects that were in the works but are now unable to
12 advance under MERP.

13
14 Discussion followed related to the intent of limiting funding to towns with the highest energy burden and how
15 energy burden is calculated.

16
17 S. Lash provided updates on mini-grants and how many towns that have received the mini-grants have used
18 them to date. Windowdressers is an eligible use of those mini-grant funds; S. Lash will provide reminders in
19 future reports of how that money can and cannot be used.

20
21 **GMT:**

22 C. Meyer summarized Green Mountain Transit's recent proposals to reduce budget and how those proposals
23 might affect the region and its residents. This may include service cuts in the region, though details are to be
24 determined. CVRPC is considering whether to advocate for state funding to meet gaps in federal funding;
25 additionally, CVRPC will continue to track an ongoing study that is examining the possibility of shifting
26 Washington County service to a different provider instead of GMT, which is focused more on Chittenden County.

27
28 **Flood Prevention Group:**

29 C. Meyer summarized a new initiative to address flooding at a larger scale than individual municipalities and
30 listed various existing CVRPC committees and work groups that are already addressing flooding at a regional
31 scale. C. Meyer asked commissioners whether to consider creating a new group that more directly addresses
32 flooding at a regional level than the existing groups and whether flooding is a place where commissioners would
33 be interested in using more mandatory language to create stronger regulations.

34
35 P. Emery spoke about Plainfield's experience in recent flooding and the importance of maximizing flood risk
36 mitigation. E. Toohey provided an example of how flooding has been addressed in Brownfields and other related
37 issues.

38
39 A. Farrell asked how the 2025 Regional Plan will tie together issues through the entire plan instead of having
40 siloed chapters created by separate staff and committees. Staff and Regional Plan Committee members
41 addressed ways to ensure cohesion throughout the regional plan.

42
43 **Meeting Minutes:**

1 A. Farrell moved to approve the 7/9/2024 drafting meeting minutes, R. Wernecke seconded. All in favor, motion
2 carried.

3 D. La Haye moved to approve the 7/18/2024 drafting meeting minutes, M. Miller seconded. All in favor, motion
4 carried.

5

6 **Reports:**

7 C. Meyer encouraged commissioners to review reports and expressed gratitude for the excellent work that the
8 planning technicians (K. Hansen, J. Gross-Dixon, and G. Corbett-Valade) did this summer.

9

10 C. Meyer provided updates on programs including Municipal Energy Resilience Program, Local Hazard Mitigation
11 Plans, and Brownfields. CVRPC will consulting with municipalities more in the coming months related to the
12 Future Land Use Maps.

13

14 R. Wernecke moved to accept the reports, W. Arrand seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

15

16 **Adjournment:**

17 D. La Haye moved to adjourn, J. Brabant seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:49pm.

DRAFT