

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Draft MINUTES
November 12, 2024

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 type="checkbox"/> Northfield	Royal DeLegge
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Schulz, Alt
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Cabot	Brittany Butler	<input 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 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	Zoe Christiansen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jenny Faillace, Alt.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarice Cutler, Alt.	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Mitch Osiecki, Alt.	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodbury	Michael Gray
<input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier	Mike Miller, Alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Worcester	Bill Arrand

Staff: Christian Meyer, Nancy Chartrand, Reuben MacMartin, Niki Sabado, Pamela Sonn

Guests: Stephen Whitaker - resident of Montpelier

Call to Order: Chair D'Amico called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm, a roll call was completed, and a quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda: None

Public Comments: Chair D'Amico advised that Stephen Whitaker, resident of Montpelier, was in attendance but would speak when we address the Montpelier Growth Area item on the agenda. Chair D'Amico also introduced Pamela Sonn, new CVRPC Assistant Planner.

Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Appointment: Christian Meyer provided an overview of the information outlined in the packet, noting that we are soliciting for a municipal representative and have reached out to all municipalities for this seat. It was noted that this seat represents municipal interests, not a specific municipality. Alice Peal also made note of the floodplain and river corridor presentation planned for this week's CWAC meeting with Stephanie Smith of Vermont Emergency Management and Ned Swanburg of the Agency of Natural Resources.

Montpelier Growth Area: Stephen Whitaker advised the Board he was instrumental in pointing out the information outlined in the recent Montpelier Bridge article (linked in the meeting packet) advising approval of

1 Montpelier’s growth center expansion was revoked. He shared his concerns related to Montpelier’s planning
2 practices and stated his belief that the City is attempting to bypass this RPC’s prerogative of reviewing and
3 approving a plan, and requested that the RPC insist the full growth center application be prepared based on full
4 detail of the Country Club Road property in their Municipal Plan. He requested the RPC pay close attention as
5 such a large development will have regional impact.
6

7 Christian Meyer went on to provide an overview of the memorandum provided in the packet. His directive
8 coming out of last month’s meeting was to assess what the regional role was in the process and if we had
9 standing in the request for reconsideration; and if there was a time constraint on our ability to comment on the
10 process as is outlined in the packet. The RPC will be asked to review Montpelier’s updated municipal plan upon
11 completion for conformance with the Regional Plan and will be requested to provide a letter of support to
12 extend growth area boundary. We will be watching this very closely. Christian advised he is a newly appointed
13 member of the Community Investment Board, however, in consideration of this application as it relates to
14 Montpelier he has recused himself from those votes since the RPC will have to review and possibly approve a
15 Municipal Plan in the future.
16

17 During discussion it was confirmed that the Country Club Road property extends from the Montpelier’s current
18 growth center that includes Sabin’s Pasture. It was also confirmed that when the updated Municipal Plan
19 comes to the RPC for approval it will be the role of the Municipal Plan Review Committee to review the plan for
20 approval. Chair D’Amico thanked Stephen for his input.
21

22 **Regional Plan Chapter Review – Transportation:** Senior Transportation Planner Reuben MacMartin provided an
23 overview of the information included in the meeting packet. Reuben noted that the draft chapter has been
24 presented to both the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Regional Plan Committee for feedback,
25 resulting in the goals and strategies being revised and requests for additional data and analyses. He requested
26 the Board’s input on the draft chapter as presented.

27 Discussion included the utility of data presented on pages 25 and 29 given the age of the data. Reuben noted it
28 was the most recent data available at the time of drafting, but he will confirm whether more recent data is now
29 available. Christian noted it will be important to include that we will maintain and monitor trends going
30 forward. With regard to goals, there was discussion on goal #11 to include emergency use as well as
31 recreational use for Class IV roads. It became very apparent during recent flood events that consideration needs
32 to be given to getting emergency vehicles into impacted areas post flood. It was noted the Regional Plan could
33 include template language for municipalities to use in a Class IV Road policy. There was also discussion on the
34 Transportation Resilience Planning Tool (TRPT) that was initiated a few years ago to identify critical areas, and
35 consideration of whether this type of information should be in the Emergency Management chapter vs. the
36 Transportation chapter.

37 The Board was requested to please share the draft Transportation chapter information with their town officials
38 and to provide any additional feedback to the RPC for consideration.

39 **Winooski Basin Flood Workshop:** Christian Meyer provided details about the workshop outlined in the packet,
40 clarifying it is Wednesday, December 4th. It was noted this event is the result of a planning committee of the
41 organizations outlined in the packet meeting and initiating a conversation basin-wide. The top three questions
42 that will be presented at the workshop are:

1 What are you working on or plan to work on in the area of flood damage reduction, resilience and
2 adaptation in your community:

3 What resources do you need to get this work done?

4 Is there value in this watershed-level convening – is it worthwhile and should we do it again?
5

6 It was noted information had been sent out to municipal governing boards and town officials to identify people
7 in the community to attend and report back to their municipal governments.
8

9 It was also noted that CVRPC is always looking for opportunities for basin-wide modeling initiatives so we can
10 start identifying the best projects to pursue.
11

12 **Minutes – (10/8/24):** *Don La Haye moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Lee Cattaneo.*
13 *Motion passed unanimously.*
14

15 **Reports:** Christian Meyer noted Community Development Planner Eli Toohey has been working on EPA
16 applications to grow our Brownfields program. One of the applications being submitted is for a revolving loan
17 fund, which our bylaws authorize us to create, but it must have a 2/3 majority vote of the board. This item will
18 be brought back in front of the board next month.

19 Christian also advised additional Green Mountain Transit services are being cut. Initial rounds of reduced service
20 already went into effect in the Chittenden County area. Today the GMT Board voted on reducing service for the
21 Montpelier Link (Burlington & St Albans) beginning in March 2025. There was discussion on the reasons for loss
22 of ridership as well as the groups such cuts are going to affect the most (elderly / disabled) who may be
23 dependent on public transportation to get to services. Reuben advised he will try and identify new transit data
24 for inclusion in the Regional Plan. He was also requested to look at the language on long distance transit on
25 page 28 of the draft chapter.

26 *Ron Krauth moved to accept the reports as presented, seconded by Don La Haye. Motion passed unanimously.*

27 **Commissioner Round Table:**

28 Janet Shatney advised Barre City is proud recipient of the MERP grant that CVRPC Climate and Energy Planner
29 Sam Lash worked on. They have received funds to do upgrades to Barre City Auditorium and City Hall. She
30 informed the group that Sam Lash is a rock star!
31

32 Lee Cattaneo also shared praise for Sam's work with their town, noting that Orange also received grant funds to
33 redo their town hall and town offices and make them energy efficient.
34

35 **Adjournment:** *Don La Haye moved to adjourn at 7:43 pm; seconded by Lee Cattaneo. Motion carried*
36 *unanimously.*
37

38 Respectfully submitted,
39 Nancy Chartrand, Office Manager