

**Southern Windsor County  
Regional Planning Commission**

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Monthly Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 21, 2014  
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

**Commissioners Present:** Tom Bock (Vice Chair), Chester; Carol Lighthall, Baltimore; John Mitchell, Reading; Joe Wilson (Alt.), Springfield; deForest Bearse (Alt.), Weathersfield; Hal Pyke, West Windsor; Norm Vanasse, Ludlow; Bob Flint (at-large), SRDC.

**Staff Present:** Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen, Dan Potter, Cynthia Porter, Chris Titus, Katharine Otto.

**Guests:** Guy Rouelle, VTrans; Kevin Geiger, TRORC; Bob Forguites, Springfield; Bill Kearns, Springfield; Peter MacGillivray, Springfield; Walter Striedieck, Airport Commission; Jim Mullen, Weathersfield.

Tom Bock called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

1. Discussion about commercial air service in the region
  - a. Guy Rouelle, VTrans Aviation Administrator, gave a presentation about the Hartness State Airport. Key points of this discussion included:
    - VTrans recently reorganized the operational structure of the Hartness Airport. The Agency now operates this facility, instead of the former fixed-base operator.
    - A jet fuel pump was installed that operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
    - There was a 40% increase in jet fuel sales over last two years.
    - The State purchased an additional 6 acres of adjacent land, upon which they are planning to expand the taxiway and construct jet hangars.
    - Obstacle tree removal is a big issue. They are working to secure easements to make this easier in the future.
    - Charter service is increasing.
    - The Agency will be developing a master plan for this facility over the next year to identify needed improvements and explore future possibilities (e.g. if commercial service ends in one of the nearby airports). It will consider other improvements, such as improving the terminal building. They will work with selectboards and planning commissions in developing this master plan.
    - VTrans will soon install additional perimeter fencing, which will completely surround the airport, keeping out animals and people.
  - b. Jim Mullen reported that Weathersfield is budgeting to rebuild Airport Road.
2. Discuss draft HUD project materials

- a. Kevin Geiger, TRORC, discussed the ongoing East Central Vermont Consortium project that is funded by a sustainable communities grant through HUD. Two Rivers was awarded this grant, and subcontracted with SWCRPC to assist in this effort. The purpose of this project is to develop a plan for the general Windsor and Orange County area.
- b. Kevin indicated that the transportation section was completed recently.
- c. Kevin highlighted four sections that are currently in draft form and will be presented to the February 11, 2014 consortium meeting. Drafts are available on the project website (see the memo in the agenda packet).
  - Our Homes: Highlights from this section include that many residents spend too much for housing, we have a higher than typical disabled population, and we have higher levels of education than the national average. Kevin indicated that, as part of the statewide economic development strategy, economic projections suggest that the region will experience several thousand new jobs (health care, service, some manufacturing). If these projections come true, one of the primary issues will be to provide housing for these mostly new people.
  - Climate Resilience: This section focuses on how to adapt to the changing prevailing weather conditions for the region (i.e. warmer, wetter). A large focus of this effort is how to build roads that are resilient to future flooding events.
  - Habitat: This involves reviewing existing mapping information and identifying additional mapping needs in order to better understand the locations of important habitat areas and the connections between them.
  - Energy: This section focuses on improving the energy performance of our homes and businesses. We have an old, leaky housing stock that is more reliant on oil heat than other parts of the country.
- d. The other sections that are to be developed by the spring 2014, including:
  - Water Supply
  - Health and society: A large component of this section involves our aging population and related issues.
  - Economic Development
- e. Project completion is anticipated for the end of the fall in 2014.
- f. Discussions identified a need to address generational poverty by providing better vocational training, diversion programs and other methods to address this complicated problem.

### 3. Secretary's Report

- a. *Hal Pyke made a motion to approve the November 19, 2013 Secretary's Report. Second by John Mitchell. Passed. Tom Bock abstained because he did not attend the meeting.*

4. Treasurer's Report

- a. Tom Kennedy and Cynthia Porter discussed the December 2013 Treasurer's Report. We are at about 50% of the budget, half way through the fiscal year. Legal expenses are high due to the Biomass project. No budget amendments are needed at this time.

*Joe Wilson made a motion to accept the December 2013 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Hal Pyke. Passed unanimously.*

- b. The final FY 2013 Financial Audit was handed out at the November SWCRPC Board meeting. Tom Kennedy reported that there were no negative findings. After Board review, a vote was made to accept the financial report:

*Joe Wilson made a motion to accept the final FY 2013 financial audit report. Second by John Mitchell. Passed unanimously.*

5. Permit Updates

- a. Jason Rasmussen discussed the permit matrix that was included in the agenda packet. This is being used to track the status of ongoing projects and it helps with our annual reporting requirements with ACCD. Tom Kennedy and Joe Wilson discussed the recent hearing with the North Springfield biomass project. Springfield's attorney asked to have the MOU between the Town and applicant be added into the record, but the Public Service Board has been reluctant to do so. However, the new access road is likely to be built as it was agreed to under this MOU.

A number of recent and pending telecommunication tower projects were discussed. Tower heights, collocation and stealth technology are generally the primary issues with those projects.

6. Old Business

- a. Nothing to report

7. New Business

- a. Nothing to report

8. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.