

**Southern Windsor County
Regional Planning Commission**

Monthly Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, May 20, 2014
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

Commissioners Present: Tom Bock (Vice Chair), Chester; Carol Lighthall (Treasurer), Baltimore; Joe Wilson (Alt.), Springfield; Hal Pyke, West Windsor; Tom Kenyon (Alt.), West Windsor; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Etienne Ting, Cavendish.

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

Tom Bock called the meeting to order at 12:20 pm.

1. Secretary's Report
 - a. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to approve the April 15, 2014 Secretary's Report. Seconded by Joe Wilson. Passed unanimously.*
2. Treasurer's Report
 - a. *Etienne Ting made a motion to accept the April 2014 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Joe Wilson. Passed unanimously.*
 - b. Tom Kennedy read the investment corporate resolution that the Board is required to pass annually.
Joe Wilson made a motion to pass the resolution to authorize the Executive Director, Financial Administrator and Treasurer to invest funds on behalf of the SWCRPC. Seconded by Hal Pyke. Passed unanimously.
3. Discussion of Draft FY 15 Budget
 - a. Tom Kennedy and Cynthia Porter reviewed the draft FY 2015 budget as provided in the agenda packet. A narrative that corresponds to the proposed budget was passed out at the meeting. The discussion included the following key points:
 - 1) Proposed FY15 income is very close to the FY14 income.
 - 2) Annual town dues are based on 2010 Census population figures. The dues will be the same as this year.
 - 3) We changed our computer technical support provider and are now getting better service. The cost increase reflects this improved service.
 - b. This draft FY 2015 budget will be revised for the next meeting.
4. Create Nominating Committee
 - a. Tom Kennedy explained that the Bylaws require that a Nominating Committee be established to nominate members to the Executive Committee at the Annual Meeting (June 17, 2014).

Etienne Ting made a motion to appoint Joe Fromberger and Carol Lighthall to serve on the Nominating Committee. Seconded by Hal Pyke. Passed unanimously.

5. Update on May 12th Regional Safety Forum

- a. Katharine Otto reported on the Regional Safety Forum that was held by VTrans on May 12th for the area covered by Windham Regional Commission and the SWCRPC regions. The discussion included the following highlights:
 - 1) There were 14,000 crashes and 70 fatalities on our highways last year.
 - 2) VTrans efforts to reduce crashes (i.e. Toward Zero Deaths initiative) are documented in the *Strategic Highway Safety Plan*, developed in coordination with other partners.
 - 3) This forum was well attended.
 - 4) Case studies were evaluated at the forum, including high crash locations in Springfield and Ludlow.

6. Discussion of draft Vermont Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Rule

- a. Jason Rasmussen discussed changes in flood hazard rules related to Act 138 (2012) and Act 107 (2014), including:
 - 1) State flood permits will be required after March 1, 2015 for Chapter 117 exemptions (i.e. accepted agricultural practices/structures and forestry, power plants and transmission lines under Section 248, and state-owned facilities).
 - 2) Adds river corridor protections to apply to these Chapter 117 exemptions.
- b. The formal ANR rulemaking process is anticipated to begin this summer.
- c. The need to get this information out to towns was discussed. RPC staff will be doing outreach to Zoning Administrators regarding these changes.

7. Regional Plan Updates

- a. Jason Rasmussen discussed the draft changes to the goals, policies and recommendations in the Natural Resources Chapter. No additional comments were received since the last RPC meeting.

Joe Fromberger made a motion to preliminarily approve the revised draft goals, policies and recommendations in the Natural Resources Chapter. Seconded by Carol Lighthall. Passed unanimously.

- b. Jason Rasmussen presented the draft updates to the Implementation section. These changes are intended to address the negative findings in the review of the Regional Plan that was conducted by Brandy last year. The review resulted in a grade of D for this section because it did not identify specific improvements and related priorities, costs and methods of financing. A draft matrix is being added that lists priority municipal infrastructure investments. This matrix is a work in progress. Staff is still working to get town information/review to finalize this list. A revised matrix will be provided for the next meeting.

8. Review of 2014 Legislative Session

- a. Tom Kennedy reviewed key bills from the 2014 Legislative session, including: the lake shoreland bill, transportation fair share bill, downtown bills, and S.220 regarding economic development and industrial parks.
9. Old Business
 - a. Joe Wilson and Tom Kennedy indicated that there is nothing new to report on 100 River Street.
10. New Business
 - a. Tom Kennedy reported that the proposal to construct an underground power transmission line from Canada to Ludlow appears to be real.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.