

**Southern Windsor County  
Regional Planning Commission**

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Minutes of Tuesday, September 16, 2014  
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

**Commissioners Present:** Peter Daniels (Chair), Weathersfield; Carol Lighthall, Baltimore; Wayne Wheelock (Alt.), Baltimore; Hal Pyke, West Windsor; Tom Kenyon (Alt.), West Windsor; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Norm Vanasse, Ludlow; Logan Nicoll (Alt.), Ludlow.

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

Peter Daniels called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

1. Secretary's Report

- a. Tom Kennedy indicated that we need to clarify that the motion under Section 2(c) of the draft meeting minutes was to approve Springfield's Town Plan. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to approve the August 12, 2014 Secretary's Report as modified. Second by Hal Pyke. Passed unanimously.*

2. Treasurer's Report

- a. *Hal Pyke made a motion to accept the August 2014 Treasurer's Report. Second by Norm Vanasse. Passed unanimously.*

3. Brownfields

- a. Dan Potter reported that the SWCRPC has received a new award of \$250,000 for the revolving loan fund. The award letter was included in the agenda packet.
- b. Dan Potter indicated that three Phase II assessments were completed recently, including Bryant Grinder (Springfield), Artisan Surfaces (Springfield) and the former Freeburg site (Downer's Corners).
- c. Dan Potter updated the Board about submitting an area wide planning grant application for the Clinton Street corridor in Springfield. The application will be for about \$200,000 to develop a plan for Brownfield sites and other redevelopment opportunities along the Clinton Street corridor, between Downtown Springfield and the Nortrax building.

4. Regional Plan

- a. On November 19, 2013, the Board approved a schedule to update the Regional Plan as required under our contract with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development. Jason Rasmussen presented a revised schedule that reflects the anticipated adoption of the Regional Plan by December 2014. The Board accepted this change as presented.

- b. Jason Rasmussen presented the draft Natural Resources Chapter text. He noted that the corresponding goals, policies and recommendations that the Board reviewed last month remain unchanged. Changes to the text include the addition of a flood resilience element, incorporation of comments to modify the mineral resources section, and modest informational/ data updates. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to give preliminary approval to the draft Natural Resources Chapter text. Second by Carol Lighthall. Passed unanimously.*
  - c. Dan Potter presented the draft Education and Child Care sections and reviewed the changes. Joe Fromberger asked that the text be modified to include reference to the relatively new requirement that schools provide pre-Kindergarten. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to give preliminary approval to the draft Education and Child Care section as modified. Second by Carol Lighthall. Passed unanimously.*
  - d. Jason Rasmussen presented the draft Regional Transportation Plan, which serves as Volume 2 of the Regional Plan. A hard copy of this draft was provided to the Board in June, and the draft remains as presented at that time. This update represents significant changes to the document that resulted from extensive public outreach efforts over the last few years. The document was reorganized to evaluate regionally important highway corridors, identified programmed projects and other regional transportation needs, and a variety of other updates and clarifications. The Transportation Advisory Committee has reviewed these changes and recommends adoption. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to give preliminary approval to the draft Regional Transportation Plan. Second by Hal Pyke. Passed unanimously.*
  - e. Katharine Otto presented draft maps for the Regional Plan. A new Recreation Map was developed to correspond with the new Recreation Chapter. The Water Resources Map was modified to include the Black River fluvial erosion hazard zone as it pertains to the new flood resilience element. (Note that the new river corridor maps will not be available from ANR until November.) Other maps were updated based upon the newest available information.
  - f. Jason Rasmussen discussed the proposed schedule for the adoption process. Two public hearings are required. The first will be in October and the second in November. If the Board is so willing, they can vote on adoption in November after closing the second public hearing.
5. FY 15 Project Report by Staff
- a. A staff activities report that summarizes current staff activities was handed out at the meeting, and staff highlighted notable ongoing efforts.
  - b. John Broker-Campbell announced that he has accepted a new job as emergency planner in Juneau, Alaska. The Board wished him well and thanked him for his efforts as an employee of the SWCRPC over the past seven years. Good luck!
6. New England Clean Power Project
- a. Tom Kennedy reviewed the planned underground transmission line proposed from Canada to Ludlow. The line is proposed to go under Lake Champlain and then buried under or along-side public roads, connecting to the Coolidge

Substation. The expansion to the substation is to be located in Ludlow. The SWCRPC intends to intervene once the petition for a Certificate of Public Good is filed with the Public Service Board.

7. Old Business
  - a. None
8. New Business
  - a. None
9. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.