

**Southern Windsor County
Regional Planning Commission**

Minutes of Monday, May 22, 2017
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

Commissioners Present: Tom Bock, Chester; Peter Daniels, Weathersfield; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Tom Marsh, Windsor; Kathy Rondeau, Reading; Logan Nicoll, Ludlow; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Norm Vanasse (Alt.), Ludlow; Joe Fromberger, Andover.

Staff Present: Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen, Cynthia Porter, Allison Hopkins, Chris Titus.

Others Present: Melanie Sheehan, MAPP.

Tom Bock opened the meeting at 12:00 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda
 - a. None
2. 3-4-50: Prevent Chronic Disease Presentation
 - a. Melanie Sheehan from the Mount Ascutney Prevention Partnership presented about this state initiative. She noted that 3-4-50 stands for: 3 behaviors (no physical activity, poor diet, tobacco use) lead to 4 diseases (cancer, heart disease and stroke, Type 2 diabetes, lung disease) result in more than 50% of the deaths in Vermont. There are significant efforts underway to try and prevent these chronic diseases. They are doing this in part through celebrating successes and providing tools to municipalities. MAPP and partners developed a guide *Supporting Healthy Communities: What Can Towns Do?* to help municipalities with tools and examples. For example, Weathersfield has a Health Chapter in their Town Plan and have adopted ordinances that contribute toward 3-4-50 solutions. Melanie indicated that they are collecting stories and handed out a card for people to fill out. This presentation is available to be given at town board meetings.
3. Secretary's Report
 - a. *Peter Daniels made a motion to approve the April 17, 2017 Secretary's Report. Second by Logan Nicoll. Motion passed.*
4. Treasurer's Report
 - a. *Peter Daniels made a motion to accept the April 2017 Treasurer's Report. Second by Etienne Ting. Motion passed.*
5. Discussion of FY 2018 Budget
 - a. Tom Kennedy and Cynthia Porter presented a draft budget of \$1,060,530 for FY 2018. It represents an approximate \$100,000 increase over the FY 2017 budget. The Board will vote on the proposed budget at the June meeting.
6. Approve Proposed Changes to Procurement Procedures

- a. Jason Rasmussen reviewed the draft changes that are being proposed to the Procurement Procedures. The SWCRPC needs to follow federal and state procurement rules. A few relatively minor changes are needed in order to address suggestions from VTrans.
 - b. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to approve the Procurement Procedures as presented. Second by Logan Nicoll. Motion passed.*
7. Draft Land Use Chapter Check-in
- a. Jason Rasmussen reported on the status of the Regional Plan Land Use Chapter update process. The Land Use Advisory Committee is currently reviewing an initial draft. Changes are intended to address new statutory requirements and a few tweaks identified over the years. Our plan has not had effect in Act 250 proceedings in recent years. Very specific language is required in order for a plan to have effect. We are considering changes with this in mind. An initial draft is intended to be complete by the end of June, and a final draft by the end of August. We may need more time. Input is helpful at this point so that we know about concerns before getting too far along in the process. The Board is being copied on Committee meeting announcements. Any questions, concerns or comments are appreciated at this point.
8. Update on Legislative Activity
- a. Tom Kennedy and Tom Bock provided updates on a few bills. S.135 would allow for the creation of additional Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts in more communities in Vermont. TIF is an important economic development tool. There is a lot of interest in Springfield in creating a TIF district. The Legislature is largely focusing on funding and water quality at this point of the year. It looks like the session will end the first week of May.
9. Old Business
- a. None
10. New Business
- a. Jason Rasmussen reviewed a 500 kW solar project being proposed by Catamount Solar at Springfield Hospital property on Ridgewood Road. There were no significant comments at this point, without seeing more information. The Board would like to see a visual assessment and decommissioning plan.
 - b. Jason Rasmussen reported about a solar project being proposed by Green Lantern for the agricultural fields that are on the same lot as the Miller gravel pit site between US Route 5 and VT Route 44A/Back Mountain Road. They are asking the Town and RPC for a letter to assist with identifying it as a “preferred site” under the proposed net-metering rules. Those rules are not currently in effect. The Board is willing to consider a letter of support if the Town is willing to do so. More information about the project would also be needed in considering such a request.
 - c. Tom Kennedy informed the Board that Hal Pyke’s wife passed away.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.