

**Southern Windsor County  
Regional Planning Commission**

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Minutes of Monday, May 21, 2018  
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

**Commissioners Present:** Tom Bock, Chester; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Kathy Rondeau, Reading; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Tom Marsh, Windsor; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Peter Daniels, Weathersfield; Walter Martone (Alt.), Springfield.

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

**Others Present:** Julia Lloyd Wright.

**Public Hearing #1**

- a) Tom Bock opened the public hearing at 12:15 PM. The purpose of this hearing is to get input about whether to approve the municipal plan and confirm the municipal planning efforts of the Town and Village of Ludlow under 24 V.S.A. §4350. There were no comments.
- b) *Etienne Ting made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Kathy Rondeau. Motion passed.*

**Public Hearing #2**

- a) Tom Bock opened the public hearing at 12:20 PM. The purpose of this hearing is to get input on the draft Energy Plan, which is intended to amend the existing energy element in the 2014 Regional Plan in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4348a(a)(3) and 24 V.S.A. §4352. Written comments from three entities were received prior to the hearing. Jason Rasmussen discussed those comments during the hearing, which can be summarized as:
  - 1) What is the electricity grid's ability to support state and regional energy goals?
  - 2) SWCRPC should explain whether and how it would help municipalities to identify local constraints and preferred sites at the local level through technical assistance.
  - 3) Consider specifying in more detail how local energy targets were determined.
  - 4) Consider adding more discussion about the sources and management of biomass. Consider cross-referencing in the Energy Plan other forestry-related sections of the Regional Plan.
  - 5) Consider explaining hydro power potential in more detail by referring to Map 4. Address the note on Map 4 that states "regional constraints" are "to be determined".
  - 6) SWCRPC may want to clarify its argument for prohibiting utility-scale wind.
  - 7) Agency [ANR] policies restrict renewable energy development Agency lands. SWCRPC should delete policies that relates to what types of renewable energy projects are appropriate on state park lands.
  - 8) The Town of Baltimore expressed concerns about solar mapping in Baltimore.

Julia Lloyd Wright suggested doing more to get the word out about the draft plan before the second public hearing in June.

- b) *Joe Fromberger made a motion to close the public hearing. Second by Kathy Rondeau. Motion passed.*

## **Regular Meeting**

Tom Bock opened the meeting at 12:45 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda
  - a. We will follow up on discussions at the last meeting about the Nominating Committee after the Treasurer's Report.
2. Approve the municipal plan and confirm the municipal planning effort of the town and village of Ludlow
  - a. Jason Rasmussen reported that the Municipal Plan serves both the Town and Village of Ludlow. The previous plan had expired in the fall. Therefore, Ludlow readopted the plan with minor changes that meet the basic statutory requirements in order to keep a legal plan in effect while allowing more time to complete more comprehensive changes.
  - b. Allison Hopkins met with the Town Plan Review Committee last week. Peter Daniels and Etienne Ting participated in that review. The Committee found a few areas for improvement, particularly providing more detail about some of the newer required elements, but they recommend approval as the plan does address the basic requirements. The Committee also recommends confirmation of the local planning process, as Ludlow meets the applicable criteria.
  - c. *Tom Marsh made a motion to approve the Ludlow Municipal Plan and confirm the municipal planning efforts of the Town and Village of Ludlow under 24 V.S.A. §4350. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed.*
3. Secretary's Report
  - a. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2018 meeting with corrections to the meeting date. Second by Kathy Rondeau. Motion passed.*
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. *Etienne Ting made a motion to accept the April 2018 Treasurer's Report. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed.*
  - b. Chairman Tom Bock established a Nominating Committee for the election of officers at the Annual Meeting. The members of this Committee are Peter Daniels, Joe Fromberger, Walter Martone and Tom Marsh.
5. Discuss the FY19 Budget
  - a. Tom Kennedy reviewed the proposed FY19 budget that was included in the agenda packet and answered questions. Approval of the FY19 budget will be on the June agenda. Cynthia Porter will probably make a few updates before the June agenda is delivered.

6. Discussion of Draft Regional Energy Chapter

- a. Jason Rasmussen reported that changes have been drafted to address comments 1-7 above. The revised version of the Energy Plan will be distributed for review shortly.
- b. There was discussion on what the solar potential mapping means and what it does not mean. Jason will discuss this further with the Town of Baltimore.
- c. We will make efforts to encourage more input through press releases or similar means.
- d. A second public hearing will be scheduled for the June RPC meeting. Since changes have been made to the plan, we will need to send out the revised plan 30n days prior to the hearing.

7. Road Functional Classification changes

- a. Katharine Otto explained the proposed road functional classifications that were summarized in the handout included in the agenda packet. For clarification, a change is being proposed to VT Route 11 in Springfield and Chester for the section that is between VT Routes 106 and 103. Katharine reported that the Transportation Advisory Committee is recommending these changes. She also indicated that in reaching out to VTrans, there were no concerns expressed regarding these proposed changes.
- b. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to ratify the Transportation Advisory Committee's recommendations to modify highway functional classifications as presented. Second by Walter Martone. Motion passed.*

8. Homes for All Presentation

- a. Jason Rasmussen gave a presentation about Homes for All, including a review of a recent VHFA housing analysis for the area. This presentation can be modified and given for local groups. Please let us know if there is interest for such a presentation.

9. Distribution of Final Accounting & Internal Control Policies for adoption at June 2018 meeting

- a. A copy of the final draft policies were provided to provide adequate time to review them before considering adoption at the June RPC meeting.

10. Updates

- a. Due to the schedule to provide adequate notice for the Energy Plan public hearing, the next meeting will be on June 25. This will be the Annual Meeting.

11. Old Business

- a. None.

12. Adjourn

- a. *Etienne Ting made a motion to adjourn. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Rasmussen