

**Southern Windsor County
Regional Planning Commission**

Minutes of Monday, March 27, 2017
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

Commissioners Present: Tom Bock, Chester; Joe Wilson, Springfield; Peter Daniels, Weathersfield; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Kathy Rondeau, Reading; Norm Vanasse, Ludlow; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Joe Fromberger, Andover.

Staff Present: Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen, Allison Hopkins, Katharine Otto.

Others Present: Lincoln Landé and Adrien Pino (GroSolar), Dorothy Schnure (GMP), Diane Hodgdon

Tom Bock opened the meeting at 2:00 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda
 - a. The presentation about a proposed solar project in Weathersfield was moved to the top of the agenda.
 - b. The Mt. Ascutney prevention presentation will be rescheduled for next month.
2. Weathersfield Solar Project Presentation
 - a. Dorothy Schnure and Lincoln Landé presented a proposed 4.9 MW microgrid solar project located on land behind the Hodgdon Salvage Yard. The project includes battery storage which will help with reliability, using battery-stored power when it is cloudy or during peak-load times. Battery backups helps to decrease the need for additional transmission and the corresponding costs to ratepayers.
 - b. The project will be located on a leased site approximately 25 acres in size. The site sits on a plateau to the west of the salvage yard. A portion of the project will be visible from US Route 5 through the salvage yard. The project involves selective cutting and landscaping to mitigate the viewshed.
 - c. It is a 25-35 year project.
 - d. It won't be visible from I-91 or from areas to the north of the project.
 - e. A 7-8 foot high "deer fence" with wooden posts will surround the project.
 - f. They will provide the local fire department with training. There is a shut-off if something goes wrong.
 - g. The project represents a \$10 million value that will generate about \$20K/year in state education tax revenue. The PV value tool estimates between \$3-4 million of taxable value to the town for just the panels.
 - h. If approved by the Public Service Board, they anticipate the project going online by the end of 2018.
3. Secretary's Report

- a. *Tom Kenyon made a motion to approve the February 27, 2017 Secretary's Report. Second by Wayne Wheelock. Motion passed.*
4. Treasurer's Report
 - a. *Peter Daniels made a motion to accept the February 2017 Treasurer's Report. Second by Joe Fromberger. Motion passed.*
 - b. The Board requests updated financial numbers on the 100 River Street project for the next meeting.
5. Confirm Project Prioritization and Town Highway Bridge Pre-Candidates from TAC
 - a. Katharine Otto explained that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has prepared regional priorities for projects programmed for funding by VTrans. They have also prioritizes pre-candidate projects for the Town Highway Bridge Program. The TAC's recommended priorities were included in the agenda packet for the Board's consideration.
 - b. The condition of VT Route 11 was discussed. In the past few years, paving VT Route 11 was to be completed with Emergency Relief program funding, which was not included on the list by VTrans in previous years. That project is now proposed to be addressed under another funding source, and it is included by VTrans on our list to prioritize for the first time this year. The Board noted that paving this road is needed desperately. The TAC recommends prioritizing this as the #1 paving project for the region.
 - c. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to confirm the Transportation Advisory Committee's recommendations for project prioritization and town highway pre-candidate projects as presented. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed.*
6. Brownfield Updates
 - a. Allison Hopkins explained a request for additional funding to pay for vapor remediation at the Jones Center in Springfield. In September 2016, the Board approved an RLF subgrant of up to \$35,000, with a 20% match provided by SRDC, to design and construct a sub-slab vapor mitigation system for the northern portion of the Jones Center. This is not enough money to cover the cost of the project. A revised estimate from Stone Environmental estimates that an additional \$19,000 is needed.
 - b. *Peter Daniels made a motion to amend the September 2016 motion and award an RLF subgrant of up to \$54,000, with a 20% local match provided by SRDC, to design and construct a sub-slab vapor mitigation system for the northern portion of the Jones Center. Second by Joe Wilson. Motion passed.*
7. Old Business
 - a. None
8. New Business
 - a. Tom Kennedy noted that a number of Commissioners and the SWCRPC donated to the Titus Go Fund Me fundraising effort, and thanked everyone for their support.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.