



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022, 7:00 PM

MEETING DETAILS

Virtual: [Teams Meeting](#), ID: 224 634 587 902, Pass: dBEdSy | Call: 1-802-440-1368, ID: 641 278 173#

In-Person: The Opera House, 3rd Floor, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

TOWN	NAME	
Benson	Cheryl Murray	x
Brandon	Jack Schneider	x
Castleton	Joe Bruno	
Chittenden	Julie Fredette	x
Clarendon		
Danby	Shelley Taylor	x
Fair Haven	Bob Richards	
Hubbardton	Robert Gibbs	x
Ira	Bob Kirbach	x
Killington	Andrew Salamon	x
Mendon	Larry Courcelle	x
Middletown Springs	Hilary Solomon	
Mount Holly	Jessica Metcalfe	x
	Jon McCann	x
Mount Tabor		
Pawlet	John Sobotka	x
	Harley Cudney (Alt.)	
Pittsford	David Mills	
	Donna Wilson	x
Poultney	Terry Williams	
Proctor	Carrie Covey	

TOWN	NAME	
Rutland City	David Allaire	x
Rutland Town	Jim Hall	
Shrewsbury	Laura Black	x
Sudbury	Karen Sommerlad	x
Tinmouth	Robert Lloyd	x
Wallingford	Erika Berner	x
Wells	Eleanor Jones	
West Haven		
West Rutland	Leona Minard	
ACI-Natural Resources	Hilary Solomon	
Ex-Officio- CEDRR	Tyler Richardson	x
Ex-Officio-TAC	Sean Barrows	
Ex-Officio-WIB		

OTHERS PRESENT

Devon Neary (RRPC), Barbara Noyes-Pulling (RRPC), Ed Bove (RRPC), Ethan Pepin (RRPC), Mary Kay Skaza (RRPC), Norm Cohen, Annette Smith

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MEETING MINUTES

1. PUBLIC HEARING FOR POULNTEY TOWN PLAN & CONFIRMATION OF PLANNING PROCESS
No public present. Public hearing was closed at 7:05PM.
2. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS
Meeting was called to order at 7:06PM. Introductions were made.
3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 20TH AGENDA
Motion by Allaire. Second by Sommerlad. Approved by voice vote.
4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 21ST MINUTES
Motion by Gibbs. Second by Courcelle. Approved by voice vote.
5. OPEN TO PUBLIC
Annette Smith was present and asked to make comments on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).
6. STATEMENT OF INCLUSION PRESENTATION
Norm Cohen from the Declaration and Inclusion group presented on a possible statement to be adopted by the RRPC. There have been 66 municipalities, 19 of which are in Rutland County, that have adopted the declaration. Governor Scott also signed a proclamation of inclusion for the State of Vermont. The RRPC is already engaged in this work with staff completing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training last year, updating the Title 6 Plan, and planning to undertake new initiatives such as a Public Engagement and Equity Plan, Regional Plan update, and more. The template statement was presented to the board for review and will be updated to include specific RPC language. The executive/finance committee will review the draft in October and make a recommendation to the full board of commissioners at the October meeting. No action was taken.
7. COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
Devon Neary, Executive Director of the RRPC and Tyler Richardson, Operations Manager of CEDRR, presented on the draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). Richardson began the presentation with an overview of CEDs; what is CEDs, why develop a CEDs, what are the benefits of an EDD, what makes up the West Central VT region, and what the CEDs process has included. Neary presented on the goals and actions of the CEDs, where to find more information, and outlined the next steps for the process. Both the CEDRR and RRPC boards will need to adopt the CEDs, sometime in November-January, prior to submitting the application to the EDA. Annette Smith commented that not enough public outreach had been performed and more was needed. She also discussed concerns with land-use, ACT 250 reform, recreation use of public lands and lack of protections, and any amendments or conflicts to the Regional Plan. Commissioner Allaire

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echoed Smith's concerns with a lack of public outreach and encouraged the group to re-open the comment period. Commissioner Fredette stated that outreach has been difficult post-COVID and to try working with Rutland Herald and Vermont Public on additional outreach. No action was taken.

8. TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Allaire provided the treasurers report. Audit is scheduled for October 19th. Year will end in black between \$25-35K, depending on VEMERS expense. Some revenues were discussed as high or low depending on budgets and expenses. Report for informational purposes only.

9. EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Berner provided the minutes from the September 12, 2022, executive/finance meeting. Motion by Allaire to authorize the RRPC to open a new bank account with TD Bank. Second by Sommerlad. Approved by voice vote. Executive Director Neary provided an update on office, policies, and staffing.

10. REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Ira industrial tower was review and the committee recommended issuing a letter of significant regional impact, with conformance to the Regional Plan but not the Town Plan. Motion to approve the letter as stated by Salamon. Second by Schneider. Approved by voice vote. Other projects reviewed but requiring no action were solar in Brandon, Pittsford, and Killington. Additional reports for information purposes only.

11. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Poultney Town Plan was reviewed. The plan conformed with 24 VSA Chapter 117 Sections 4302 and 4382. Motion by Gibbs to approve the Poultney Town Plan and confirmation of planning process. Second by Courcelle. Approved by voice vote.

12. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT

Neary reported that the TAC will meet next Thursday, September 29, and have presentations from Fuss & O'Neil on Pawlet Scoping Study and from VTrans on the Town Highway Bridge Program. Report for informational purposes only.

13. AREA WIDE CITIZENS

None present.

14. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Richardson reported that CEDRR is busy and highlighted the "Hub" coworking and digital economy incubation space that will be at the Opera House. VFFC received congressional award. CEDRR received a Northern Borders grant for airport industrial park water extension.

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15. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Mendon: completed LHMP with RRPC. TAP grant for corridor study of US-4.

Pittsford: Approved a historic sign for Pittsford Mills.

Rutland City: New pedestrian wayfinding signage. PC continues work on zoning bylaws.

Sudbury: Town frustrated with State over VT-30 landowner issues.

Hubbardton: All is quiet in Hubbardton.

Killington: PC is working on town plan, zoning bylaws, and other policies in preparation for TIF. US

Open for mountain biking was hosted by Killington Resort. Library hosted a fairy tale festival with most libraries in the state.

Benson: LHMP open for public comment. PC applied for zoning bylaw modernization grant.

Ira: industrial tower has had some objections, and motions to extend filed.

Tinmouth: Began review of Town Plan, compared against first town plan from 1970's.

Benson: Struggling to develop a new town garage, may use ARPA funds.

Pawlet: Bylaw modernization grant, zoning changes to village of West Pawlet.

Mt Holly: PC working on revising Town Plan, new ordinances, 2022 MPG infrastructure impediments to growth

Chittenden: seeking public input on ARPA funds, municipal buildings need assessment for deferred maintenance – maybe could be an RRPC initiative. PC is working on town plan update and implementing MPG for village center. VCF grant award for community events for COVID recovery.

Shrewsbury: PC scheduled public hearing for flood hazard areas and bylaws.

Danby: Working on LHMP, considering beginning cannabis control commission.

Wallingford: working on ARPA, closing date of Nov. 1 for ARPA committee, still working on zoning regulations, and received sidewalk grant on School Street with help of RRPC.

16. ADJOURN

Motion by Sommerlad. Second by Salamon. Adjourned at 8:34PM.

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