





RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### 1) CALL TO ORDER & MOMENT OF SILENCE

The virtual meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM. Neary called for a moment of silence for GIS Manager Steve Schild and offered some words of comfort.

### 2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Sobotka to approve October 27<sup>th</sup> Agenda. Second by Jones. Approved by voice vote.

### 3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Sobotka to approve the September 29<sup>th</sup> Minutes. Second by Ramsay. Approved by voice vote.

### 4) OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present. Jones noted concerns about lack of coordination from VTrans about road work. Neary showed off VTransparency and how to see project map for projects in the region. Jones noted Vermont Rail Systems reached out ahead of time. Barrows seconded Jones point. Neary made a note to raise the issue at a TPI meeting.

### 5) FISCAL YEAR 22 RECAP – Devon Neary, RRPC Executive Director

Neary gave an overview of TPI tasks and the transportation team. Neary talked about each of the individual program areas, highlighting specific areas of focus such as pilot projects and transit planning. Neary thanked everyone for a good year and ended talking about the Rutland Amtrak celebration event.

### 6) FISCAL YEAR 23 WORK PLAN – Ethan Pepin, RRPC Transportation Planner

Pepin gave a brief overview of TPI as well as budget and staff for the current fiscal year. Pepin discussed ongoing programs that will be a focus this fiscal year, including transit planning, pilot projects, E&D Committee, and traffic counts. Pepin then highlighted the initiatives and tasks that were new to this fiscal year, including safe routes to school support, a pilot program to reactivate old freight rail industrial parcels, a new highway safety program to install signage on highways and finally Pepin briefly talked about the new strategic initiative from VTrans that fund active transportation planning and data gathering efforts in the region. Potter asked for clarification about the Safe Routes to School Spot Improvement grant. Pepin explained that only towns who are participating in Safe Routes are eligible. Sotirakis asked a question about whether towns would be able to access federal infrastructure funds. Neary explained that most of the funding has been

***The Opera House | 67 Merchants Row | Rutland, Vermont  
P.O. Box 430 | Rutland, Vermont 05702  
RutlandRPC.org | (802) 775-0871***

**COOPERATIVE PLANNING IN THE REGION**



**RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

earmarked for state level projects. Neary asked for feedback on what information towns would want. Barrows mentioned that more information about asset management and paving processes. Ramsay, was interested greater information about contracts and potential collaboration with VTrans. Neary talked about shared service agreements and how it could be expanded to include asset management. Ramsay wanted to bring a state rep to TAC to talk about piggybacking on state contracts.

## 7) TOWN UPDATES

**Castleton:** Jones talked about the Staso Road scoping study which was approved by the board and grant funding opportunities. Jones also talked about the Main Street scoping study which is being extended and sticker shock from the board over the pricing. Jones mentioned how two separate grants were approved for the same project.

**Chittenden:** Sotirakis talked about completing a culvert on wildcat road and further work on a stormwater mitigation grant. Sotirakis also asked for advice about construction contractors.

**Clarendon:** Potter mentioned paving was done on the Creek Road and a rail bridge over the mill river.

**Hubbardton:** Morey talked about a bridge being finished over Holyoke River.

**Mendon:** Courcelle talked about the Route 4 corridor scoping study and ongoing efforts to secure consultants.

**Mount Holly:** Woolley talked about paving efforts in Belmont and the postponement of a box culvert installation until next spring.

**Pawlet:** Sabotka noted a public hearing scheduled for Tuesday November 1 for Pawlet pedestrian walkway project. Sabotka also mentioned that Pawlet is advertising for a new road foreman.

**Poultney:** Williams talked about work to remove the deck of a bridge BRIC grant for scoping study for D&H rail trail bridge inundation flooding. Work has been done to finalize ongoing MRGP project. Williams also mentioned that a contract has been signed for salt.

**Proctor:** Ramsay introduced new public works foreman Kyle Thornton. Ramsay talked about the beaver pond bike/ped path which has entered design and ROW phase. Ramsay also talked about new sidewalk work and future plans for a potential Proctor bike/ped path.

**Rutland Town:** Sears highlighted the town line road culvert has been fully completed and paving will be conducted next spring. Sears also mentioned other culvert/paving work.

**Tinmouth:** Johnson talked about the traffic study received from RRPC.

**Wallingford:** Dobbins talked about the death of their Selectboard Chair and concerns about bridges that need replacement. Dobbins expressed interest in speed feedback signs. Dobbins shared a rumor of Amtrak potentially reactivating the Rutland-Bennington corridor.

**West Rutland:** Chair Barrows talked about planning for next year's budget. Barrows also talked about the installation of lights and crossing arms. Barrows also reiterated issues with coordinating roadwork with the Vermont Rail Systems.

*The Opera House | 67 Merchants Row | Rutland, Vermont  
P.O. Box 430 | Rutland, Vermont 05702  
RutlandRPC.org | (802) 775-0871*

**COOPERATIVE PLANNING IN THE REGION**



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

8) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neary gave announcement, announcing road foreman meeting and the moving up of the next TAC meeting.

9) ADJOURN

Wooley motioned to adjourn, Sotirakis seconded. Approved by voice vote. Adjourned at 7:01.

*The Opera House | 67 Merchants Row | Rutland, Vermont  
P.O. Box 430 | Rutland, Vermont 05702  
RutlandRPC.org | (802) 775-0871*

**COOPERATIVE PLANNING IN THE REGION**