



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024, 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

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

(x = in person) (v = virtual)

TOWN	NAME	
Benson	Cheryl Murray	V
Brandon	Jack Schneider	V
Castleton	Liz MacKay	
Chittenden	Gary Congdon	
Clarendon	Brownson Spencer	
Danby	Michelle Bushee	
Fair Haven	Bob Richards	
Hubbardton	Robert Gibbs	V
Ira	Bob Kirbach	V
Killington	Andrew Salamon	V
Mendon	Larry Courcelle	X
Middletown Springs	Steven Harrington	
Mount Holly	Jessica Metcalfe	V
Mount Tabor		
Pawlet	John Sabotka	V
Pittsford	Donna Wilson	V
Poultney	Sarah Pelkey	V
Proctor	Judy Frazier	

TOWN	NAME	
Rutland City	Michael Doenges	
Rutland Town	Fred Nicholson	X
Shrewsbury	Laura Black	V
Sudbury	Barbara Somson	V
Tinmouth	Robert Lloyd	V
Wallingford	Erika Berner	V
Wells	Don Preuss	
West Haven	Rod Ethier	
West Rutland	Leona Minard	V
ACI-Natural Resources	Hilary Solomon	V
Ex-Officio- CEDRR	Lyle Jepson	V
Ex-Officio- CEDRR	Tyler Richardson	
Ex-Officio- TAC		
Ex-Officio- RRWIB		

Guests: None present.

Staff: Devon Neary, Mary Kay Skaza, Ethan Pepin, and Karen Hill



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MEETING MINUTES

1. PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Berner opened the public meeting for the Chittenden Town Plan and Confirmation of Planning Process at 7:01 pm. No public present. Public hearing was closed at 7:02 pm.

2. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order by Chair Berner at 7:02pm. Introductions were made.

3. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16TH AGENDA

Motion to approve the January 16, 2024, agenda by Nicholson. Second by Courcelle. Approved by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 16TH MINUTES

Motion to Approve the December 16, 2023, minutes by Nicholson. Second by Salamon. Approved by voice vote.

5. OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present.

6. RRPC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Ethan Pepin, RRPC Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the Transportation Planning Initiative (TPI) Program and the various transportation work in the Region.

7. TREASURERS REPORT

Mary Kay Skaza reviewed the November 2023 Financials. Report for informational purposes only.

8. EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Neary provided the Executive Finance Committee report of January 9th. No action taken. For informational purposes only.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

- New planner, Greg Poelker-McKee, is quickly on-boarding and taking over the Brownfields Program, assisting with Municipal Technical Assistance (MTAP) and Economic Development District (EDD), and will be resurrecting the Workforce Investment Board (WIB).
- Two new planners have started, Robert Boucher from Castleton University and Courtney Moore from Vermont Law and Graduate School.
- We held our first regional plan pop-up event last Friday at the Tinmouth Story Slam. Look for us at upcoming community events tomorrow in Benson and Saturday in Wallingford.
- MTAP has expanded to new towns Sudbury, Danby, Shrewsbury, Hubbardton and Proctor. We have met or scheduled meetings with all towns. Stay tuned for more information.



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- RRPC held its first Town Administrator and Manager roundtable last week. Most towns were able to attend, and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive with robust discussion. We will be holding these meetings quarterly.
- Overview of Legislative Reports: Regional Planning Report, NRB Act 250 Report, and Designation 2050 report and how they relate to the future land use map and Act 250 jurisdiction.

10. REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

- The RRPC will be hosting 5 Community Open House events for the Regional Plan update. The Open Houses will be Brandon (2/10), Castleton (3/2), Middletown Springs (3/16), Wallingford (3/30), and Rutland City (4/17). Commissioners are asked to volunteer or attend one of the five events. A sign-up sheet will be emailed to Commissioners.
- The RRPC office has launched the regional plan survey. Multiple media resources were used to announce the launch.
- Planners are attending outreach pop up events. The first event at the Tinmouth Story Slam was successful.
- To-date we have had 288 survey responses. The goal is to collect 1000 responses by March 31st.
- Staff are currently working on Task 1 revisions to the Plan.
- The contracted graphic designer is working on the Regional Plan layout.

11. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Gibbs reported that the committee had met earlier in the evening and had reviewed the Chittenden Town Plan and Confirmation of Planning Process. **Motion by Gibbs to adopt the Chittenden Town Plan and Confirmation of Planning Process. Seconded by Lloyd. Approved by voice vote.**

12. REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Post Road Solar, LLC 3 MW solar generating facility on US-7 in Rutland Town. The committee discussed various elements of the design plans and found it to be consistent with Regional Plan and have no negative regional impact. **Motion by Nicholson to send a letter to the PUC confirming conformance with the regional plan and no significant regional impacts. Second by Lloyd. Approved by voice vote.**

Reviewed Smokey House Center (JO 1-457): Trail System in Danby. The committee discussed various elements of the design plans and found it to be consistent with Regional Plan and have no negative regional impact. **Motion by Nicholson to send a letter to the NRB stating, conformance with the regional plan and no significant regional impacts. Second by Lloyd. Approved by voice vote.**

Reviewed Vermont Agency of Transportation (1R0925-5): Segment 4 Reconstruction of US-7 in Pittsford. The committee discussed various elements of the design plans and found it to be consistent with Regional Plan and have no negative regional impact. **Motion by Lloyd to send a**



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letter to the NRB stating, conformance with the regional plan and no significant regional impacts. Second by Salamon. Approved by voice vote.

Reviewed Boondock Motors (1R1025): Commercial auto repair, towing, and recovery in Pittsford. The scheduled site visit was postponed until mid-March. The issue was tabled pending a site visit report.

13. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT

Pepin shared that the committee discussed lane widths and safe speeds at their last meeting. The upcoming meeting will include a review of the traffic safety toolbox developed by UVM.

14. AREA WIDE CITIZENS

Hilary Solomon, District Manager at Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD), reviewed the projects they are working on. She also shared that PMNRCD is fund raising and grant writing to fund a staff position to spearhead community/municipal outreach and to work with the Regional Planning Commission on Clean Water Service Provider projects.

15. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

No report.

16. COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE

Andy Salamon shared details of the Killington Planning Commission (KPC) meeting with the developers of the Great Gulf Development (6 Peaks Village) at Killington Resort. The KPC was impressed by the overall project and were encouraged by the developers' responsibility to the community, the improved guest experience, and limited impacts on the rural landscape.

17. ADJOURN

Adjourned at 8:14 PM by Chair Berner.