



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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: 16 Evelyn Street, Second Floor, Rutland, VT 05701

MEETING ATTENDANCE

(x = in person) (v = virtual)

TOWN	NAME	
Benson	Cheryl Murray	V
Brandon	Jack Schneider	X
Castleton	Liz Mackay (alt)	
Chittenden		
Clarendon	Brownson Spencer	X
Danby	Andrea Stoddard (alt)	X
Fair Haven	Jason Coupal	
Hubbardton	Robert Gibbs	X
Ira	Bob Kirbach	V
Killington	Will Austin	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	X
Proctor	Richard Horner	X

TOWN	NAME	
Rutland City	Michael Doenges	X
Rutland Town	David Rosenblum	X
Shrewsbury	Laura Black	
Sudbury	Barbara Somson	V
Tinmouth	Michael Faller (alt)	X
Wallingford	Erika Berner	X
Wells	Heather Thomas (alt)	V
West Haven	Rod Ethier	
West Rutland	Leona Minard	X
ACI-Natural Resources	Hilary Solomon	V
Ex-Officio- CEDRR	Lyle Jepson	V
Ex-Officio- CEDRR	Cooper Babbit	
Ex-Officio- TAC		
Ex-Officio- RRWIB		

Guests: NA

Staff: Devon Neary, Karen Hill, Ethan Pepin, Greg McKee, Jeremy Gildrien, Logan Solomon, Maggie O'Brien, Barbara Pulling, and Nic Stark



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MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS
Meeting called to order by Chair Berner at 7:04 pm. Introductions were made.
2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 22nd AGENDA
Motion to approve the October 22nd agenda by Gibbs. Second by Rosenblum.
Approved by voice vote.
3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17th MINUTES
Motion to approve the September 17th minutes by Horner. Second by Rosenblum.
Approved by voice vote.
4. OPEN TO PUBLIC
None present.
5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Economic and Workforce Development Planner, Greg Poelker, has decided to step away from the RRPC and has given two weeks' notice. October 25th will be the last day. Please help us thank Greg for all his great work at the RRPC!

The RRPC has hired a new Senior Planner from Florida, Karina Edwards. Updates will be shared with the Board once her start date is established.

The RRPC is in full audit season mode. As a result, no financials for October. Mary Kay and Karen have been working hard to get the materials to the auditor by the end of the month. The RRPC board will need to vote to accept the audit results at the December 9th board meeting/holiday party.

FY26 membership dues memos were sent to the towns on 10/11. All Commissioners were cc'd on that email notification. Please help spread the word and let Devon know if he needs to speak directly with a town selectboard.

RRPC received two grants to establish Neighborhood Development Areas in the Towns of Brandon and Fair Haven.

The RRPC is teaming up with CEDRR to solicit economic and community development projects that will transform the region's economy! The top 10 projects will advance to the Priority Project List which will be used by federal, state, and regional entities to understand and fund needs in the Region. Please submit your project ideas or inquiries by November 15th to Cooper Babbitt: cooper@rutlandeconomy.com.



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The RRPC reported the office relocation came in under budget by \$7170.30 largely due to reduced invoices from the movers and landlord. A request was made to allow the RRPC to utilize an additional \$3500 to outfit the medium conference room with a conference table and bookshelves. **Motion by Doenges to approve the reallocation of \$3500 from the move fund for a conference room table and bookshelves. Second by Schneider. Approved by voice vote.**

6. REGIONAL PLAN REPORT

Task 2 Rev 2 review process is complete. The Regional Plan Committee completed their review of the first full draft of all 10 subject chapters. Neary thanked the committee for all their hard work and support, spending dozens of hours reading and reviewing each chapter.

Phase 2 engagement continues the robust marketing campaign that includes newsletters, email blasts, front porch forum, flyers, radio, and PEGTV. Staff have completed presentations to all 27 towns, held 3 pop-up events, and the first feedback session. The session was lightly attended but included substantive feedback. The next feedback session will be on October 30th at 6PM online or in-person. Neary asked the Commissioners to help spread the word. Lastly, the Phase 2 survey is still live and has received nearly 200 responses.

7. REGIONAL PLAN DRAFT POLICY FEEDBACK SESSION

RRPC staff conducted a RRPC Board of Commissioners feedback session on the 2026 Regional Plan draft policies. Commissioners provided feedback on each of the 10 chapters that will help inform the next full draft of the chapter. Please see recording for more details on specific feedback provided.

8. REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Minard provided the Regional Committee report. The committee reviewed three Section 248 applications; 45-Day advance submission of Silver Silo Solar, LLC for a 500kW group net-metered solar array in North Clarendon, Vermont; 45-Day advance submission of Novus Brandon Solar LLC for a 150kW group net-metered solar array in Brandon, Vermont; and 45-day-advance submission of Boardman Storage, LLC for a 5 MW battery storage facility in W. Rutland, Vermont. Tom Garden from Silver Silo Solar was present at the Committee meeting and requested a preferred site letter. Alex Bravakis from Novus Brandon Solar also was present and requested a preferred site letter. No action was taken regarding the battery storage due to a lack of consideration in the 2018 Rutland Regional Plan. **Motion by the Spencer to approve letters designated a preferred site status for Novus Brandon Solar and Silver Silo Solar. Second by Doenges. Approved by voice vote.**



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9. EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Neary provided the Executive Finance Committee report of October 15th. No action taken and for informational purposes only.

10. REGIONAL PARTNERS

No report.

11. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Lyle Jepson of CEDRR invited members of the board to their annual meeting at the Paramount Theatre on October 23, 2024.

12. COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE

No roundtable.

13. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Rosenblum. Second by Minard. Adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectively submitted by Karen Hill