



For Immediate Release

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Chittenden County RPC Celebrates 50th Anniversary

New leadership elected for FY17-FY19

(Winooski, VT) – The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC), the principle forum for land use and transportation planning in Chittenden County, celebrated its 50th anniversary last night.

Over 80 people gathered at Champlain College to celebrate, and guests included municipal officials, State representatives and senators, current and previous CCRPC Board members and staff, and more. Guest speakers included Donald Laackman, President of Champlain College; Chris Cole, Vermont Secretary of Transportation; and Governor Peter Shumlin.

Governor Shumlin highlighted some of the significant challenges the CCRPC has taken on recently, including the clean-up of Lake Champlain, the CIRC Highway alternatives projects, and the opioid epidemic.

“All the work we do together has to be centered around continued good planning and intervention – bringing people together to solve big problems,” said Governor Shumlin. “I want us to celebrate the fact that we’re getting it right in Vermont on so many levels. It’s not because we’re timid, and it’s not because we hide from real challenges; it’s because we come together to get the work done, and there’s no better example of that than what’s happening right here on the 50th anniversary of the RPC.”

Since its inception in 1966, the CCRPC has served the municipalities of Chittenden County by helping to preserve the region’s unique landscape, as well as adapt to its growing population and diverse needs.

“The CCRPC has worked hard over the last 50 years to serve the municipalities of Chittenden County,” said Charlie Baker, CCRPC Executive Director. “During this milestone year, we are reflecting on past accomplishments and challenges, and we are excited to continue working on land use and transportation planning, economic development, emergency management, and water quality. We also look forward to expanding our efforts in the community – including helping to lead a regional housing discussion, and providing staff support to the Chittenden County Opioid Alliance.”

Elections of new officers were also held. Andrew Montroll will end his two-year term as Chair on June 30th. Montroll has served on the CCRPC since 2005, and will continue as Burlington’s representative. He is the co-founder of his private law practice, Montroll, Backus & Oettinger, PC, a former President of the Burlington City Council and current member of the Burlington Planning Commission. “It’s been a privilege to serve as chair for the past two years,” said Montroll. “Our region has a unique set of challenges and opportunities, and I look forward to continuing my role on the board and in the community.”

Replacing Montroll as chair is newly-elected Chris Roy of Williston, who has served on the CCRPC since 2012. Roy is a director in the Burlington office of Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC, the law firm he's practiced with since 1989. He is a commercial litigator, with a focus on land use, property and permit litigation. Roy is a former member of the Vermont Environmental Board, and also served on the Williston Selectboard for eight years, retiring in March. "I look forward to this new role to help further the RPC's efforts in the community," said Roy. "The intersection between land use, public policy, economics, and the law is something I'm invested in and I look forward to addressing the region's needs."

In other election results: Michael O'Brien, former Mayor of Winooski, was elected as CCRPC Vice-Chair. Brian Bigelow, Town Administrator for the Town of Underhill, was elected CCRPC Treasurer. John Zicconi, representative for the Town of Shelburne, and Barbara Elliott, Town Administrator for the Town of Huntington, were elected to the CCRPC Executive Committee to represent large and small municipalities respectively.

As a visual representation of the last 50 years in the region, CCRPC staff assembled a timeline that highlights some significant milestones, events, and more. View the timeline at: ccrpcvt.org/about-us/news/ccrpc-timeline.

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