



ad hoc Commission on Act 250 Minutes

Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Time: 8:00am to 9:30am

Location: CCRPC Small Conference Room, 110 West Canal Street, Winooski

Attendees: Tony Micklus; Chris Roy; Curt Carter; Charles Baker; Regina Mahony; Taylor Newton (phone)

- I. Meeting called to order at 8:10am. No changes to agenda or members' items.
- II. Review Minutes:
 - a. Chris Roy made a motion, seconded by Tony Micklus, to approve the January 28, 2020 minutes. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED.
 - b. Tony Micklus made a motion, seconded by Curt Carter, to approve the February 18, 2020 minutes. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED.

III. Review of Draft Comments on the Proposed Act 250 Bill:

The ad hoc Committee discussed the status of the Act 250 bill. It was passed by the House (H. 926) with a lot of amendments from the floor on 2/28/2020. The bill as passed has not yet been released. The packet included the Vermont Planners Association summary of the amendments from 3/4/2020. Chris Roy provided a summary of some of the amendments as well.

The ad hoc Committee then reviewed the edited CCRPC comments based on the amendments from the floor; as well as comments received from committee member Jim Donovan via email. The ad hoc Committee decided to clarify the recommendation on Act 250 exempt areas to be the areas that are served by both water and sewer. Eight percent of Chittenden County is served by both water and sewer in comparison to 0.4% of the land area in Neighborhood Development Areas and Downtowns. Staff will figure out the land area with Village Center designations now that they've been added as an exemption. There was also discussion about expanded jurisdiction within 2,000' of interstate interchanges; and CCRPC's recommendation to exempt areas in a Census-defined urbanized area. Staff will investigate how that definition would play out in the rest of the state; and consider an alternative if it could be problematic. The ad hoc Committee decided to leave in comments of appreciation for amendments that were made that we asked for. A few other clarification edits were made.

There was a discussion about the climate adaptation, environmental justice and trails. The ad hoc Committee asked Staff to develop a comment about the environmental justice criteria amendment. The ad hoc Committee appreciates the intent, is concerned about unintended consequences, and finds that it would be more effective to address environmental justice issues through local planning; rather than a case by case basis in Act 250. Chris Roy provided a history of trails regulation in Act 250. There are a lot of efforts underway on this topic; and since it isn't a big issue for Chittenden County, the ad hoc Committee decided it isn't necessary for CCRPC to weigh in.

Lastly, the ad hoc Committee discussed VAPDA's discussion points on this bill. This was put in the packet as a FYI. The comments are largely in line with CCRPC's comments.

- IV. Next Steps: There is a Legislative update on the Board agenda on 3/18/2020 where this will be covered as well as other legislative topics.
- V. Adjourned at 8:55am