

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES
3

4 DATE: Wednesday, September 8, 2021
5 TIME: 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
6 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom with link as published on the agenda and in Main Conference Room at
7 CCRPC (no one attended in person)
8

9 **Members Present:**

10 Katherine Sonnick, Jericho
11 Eric Vorwald, Winooski
12 Owiso Makuku, Essex
13 Ravi Venkataraman, Richmond
14 David White, Burlington
15 Larry Lewack, Charlotte
16 Cymone Haiju, Milton
17 Ken Belliveau, Shelburne
18 Matt Boulanger, Williston

Staff:

Regina Mahony, Planning Program Manager
Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Taylor Newton, Senior Planner
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Engineer

Other:

19
20 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

21 Regina Mahony called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

22 **2. Approval of June 9, 2021 Minutes**

23 Eric Vorwald made a motion, seconded by Katherine Sonnick, to approve the June 9, 2021 minutes. No further
24 discussion. MOTION PASSED. Ravi Venkataraman, Ken Belliveau, Larry Lewack, David White and Cymone Haiju
25 abstained.

26 **3. 2020 Housing Data**

27 Melanie provided an overview of the 2020 housing data numbers, and the five-year average numbers in relation to
28 the ECOS future Planning Areas. Melanie also presented data from the first five years of the Building Homes
29 Together campaign on the [DRAFT dashboard](#).

30 Regina explained that the Building Homes Together team is thinking through the next campaign. Champlain Housing
31 Trust, EverNorth and CCRPC have been reflecting on the fact that while we met the total housing targets on the first
32 five years of the campaign, many of the metrics are not improved: vacancy rate, home ownership inventory, cost
33 burdened households, homelessness, etc. Given that, the campaign is considering a higher total construction target
34 and a higher percentage affordable (potentially 1,000 homes per year and 25% affordable). We will be presenting the
35 new targets and campaign goals at the Housing Convening on Thursday, September 30th at 6pm, focus group
36 meetings in October, and the Vermont Development Conference in early November. After that feedback the
37 campaign will be formally announced. Regina asked the PAC if they have any feedback to share now:

- 38 1. Ken Belliveau asked if we've ever built over a 1,000 units in a year? Regina and Melanie stated that we built
39 over 1,000 units in 2016. Regina also mentioned that we were only averaging 420 units before the campaign
40 but averaged 731 for the last five years.
- 41 2. David White suggested that we do a retrospective on the previous five years of the campaign and what
42 worked to make a difference? Regina stated that the housing bond clearly made a difference; while the
43 affordable housing goal wasn't met we wouldn't have even come as far as we did without that. Regina stated
44 that this is a good segue into the municipal tools list that we'll be reporting along with the data results. If
45 there are any of these municipal tools that the Town's felt like made a big difference please let us know.
Regina indicated that she has heard from about half of the Town's on this housing tools list. She'll follow up
with this question and the list again for more input.
3. Jason Charest suggested that Building More Homes Together may be a good name for round 2 of the
campaign.

4. ECOS Plan Update

Regina explained that it is time for CCRPC to update the ECOS Plan. We update this every five years because of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. It has also been 10 years since the original ECOS Plan and a lot of the regional plan pieces really can use an update at this point. Also, we will be working with a new state Comprehensive Energy Plan and Climate Council actions. Regina asked the PAC if there is a volunteer to serve on the Long Range Planning Committee to assist with the 2023 ECOS Plan Update? Representatives from the CWAC, TAC & PAC would benefit the process, expected from Sept/Oct 2021 to March/April 2023. The biggest committee engagement is anticipated to be in 2022.

Eric Vorwald might be interested; Regina Mahony will get back in touch with him when she knows when the LRPC will be meeting.

5. Broadband in Chittenden County

Regina shared the broadband map that Pam Brangan has been working on for our region: <https://tinyurl.com/CCRPCbroadband>. The map has a lot of data on it. When first opened the map shows the approximately 2,000 households in the unserved, and underserved categories. These are small residential neighborhoods all throughout the County. CCRPC has been talking with the Department of Public Service, Christine Hallquist and Rob Fish of the Vermont Community Broadband Board, and the service providers in the region to try to get a sense of how best to serve these households. There are going to be different solutions for each small neighborhood pocket. It still seems clear that there is no reason to set up a Communications Union District in Chittenden County; because the small providers themselves can apply for the state funds that the Vermont Community Broadband Board will be responsible for. Municipalities can support those efforts. Regina added that there are no funds available to the bigger service providers - Comcast and Consolidated; and there are currently no funds available to upgrade those with 25/3 service to 100/100. Municipal ARPA funds can be used for broadband, however those municipalities with water and sewer infrastructure that serves the majority of the residents in Town may have a hard time justifying broadband projects that serve a very small percentage of households.

6. Members Items Open Forum

Eric Vorwald asked the PAC members how hybrid meetings are going?
Williston – using an owl for regular meetings, and CCTV for DRB meetings. There have actually been more tech issues with the CCTV system so far.
Charlotte – they have a system with speakers that look like hockey pucks. Not working great because they are not picking up all the sound. May have to switch to asking folks to come up to a microphone up front.
Shelburne – have owl cameras. Media factory broadcasts all the DRB meetings. People are heard in DRB meetings. 50 people in the room for a meeting last week.
Richmond – community TV set-up and working really well.
Jericho – MMTC – mounted the cameras on the wall; audience speaking has been rectified with a better microphone.
Essex – have hybrid that is working well and very few people are attending in person.

Any issue with people being heard and could that be used as a due process complaint? Members replied that it seems to not be a problem with the use of the chat feature in addition to raising a hand when someone on the virtual platform wants to talk.

Ravi Venkataraman asked the PAC if any other Towns have thought about the future evolution of gas stations and how we transition vehicle fueling for the future? For example has anyone thought about limiting the number of gas pumps on site, and including requirements for electric charging instead (especially the DC Fast charger), and potentially alternative fuels? Trying to be rationale/reasonable. They've received a proposal for redevelopment of an existing gas station. Taylor suggested keeping it simple – just limit the number of gasoline pumps. Consider putting a DC charger in a municipal lot to serve as an example. Ken added that it doesn't seem clear from the research so far that folks will go to traditional gas stations to charge up. Eric suggested that the simplify the use rather than complicating it; call it a fueling station and let the market dictate what they are going to sell. Regina added that she

1 doesn't believe municipalities have the authority to dictate which fuel is sold. Taylor also suggested that
2 municipalities should just exempt EV charging from permitting. Ravi explained that this question has mostly come
3 up at the interstate exchange as people will likely need the infrastructure there. Melanie suggested that Ravi work
4 with Dave Roberts at Drive Electric Vermont. CCRPC has a contract with them to work with towns on planning for
5 EV charging – this conversation seems like a perfect fit for Dave to help with.
6

7 **7. Regional Act 250/Section 248 Projects on the Horizon.**

8 Regina Mahony asked the PAC to email Regina and Taylor any Act 250/Section 248 updates.
9

10 **8. Other Business**

- 11 a. Town of Hinesburg Energy Plan has been adopted at the local level and will be brought to the CCRPC Board
12 for approval on 9/15/2021. Regina added that Underhill's plan is up for potential adoption at the Selectboard
13 tomorrow night (9/9) so that may also go to the Board next week as well.
- 14 b. CCRPC has hired Ann Janda as the Energy Project Manager to assist municipalities with energy
15 implementation activities. Stay tuned for outreach from her. Regina stated that we have a full project list
16 from Williston from the Energy Plan; Regina asked the other municipalities to send their implementation
17 spreadsheets from their municipal plans so Ann can have a complete list of projects/actions.
- 18 c. CCRPC has prepared survey questions for public input on spending ARPA funds. If anyone is interested in
19 this please let Regina know.
- 20 d. CCRPC is working with three other regions (Addison, Rutland and Central VT) on a combined
21 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) currently called the [West Central Vermont CEDS](#).
22 While Chittenden County already has a CEDS this will help us update that component of the ECOS Plan (in
23 2023); and set us up for the possibility of becoming an [Economic Development District](#), which could provide
24 a more consistent amount of EDA funding in the region. Let us know if you'd like us to do a local
25 presentation on this effort.
- 26 e. State-wide webinar with GMP on electric vehicles September 21.
- 27 f. CCRPC/Drive Elective Vermont is offering electric vehicle planning and implementation assistance this
28 fiscal year. Please let Melanie know ASAP if you are interested in working with DEV on a project.
29 Richmond may be interested as discussed earlier in the agenda.
- 30 g. For your information - see the attached email for the list of the FFY22 Congressionally Designated Spending
31 Requests.
32
33

34 **9. Adjourn**

35 Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.

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37 Respectfully submitted, Regina Mahony