



Planning Advisory Committee Agenda

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

2:30pm to 4:00pm

Meeting will be hosted virtually with staff available at our office to assist anyone who may wish to participate in person.

Physical Location: 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski VT

Virtual Location: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87390245761>

For those who would prefer to join by phone or those without a microphone on your computer, please dial in using your phone. (For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

Dial: +1 646 876 9923; Meeting ID: 873 9024 5761

For supported devices, tap a one-touch number join instantly: +16468769923,,87390245761#

Agenda

2:30 Welcome and Introductions, *Joss Besse*

2:35 Approval of September 8, 2021 Minutes*

2:40 Draft Comprehensive Energy Plan & Act 174 Edits, *Ann Janda & Melanie Needle*

Staff will provide an overview of the [draft Comprehensive Energy Plan](#), including draft changes to the [Act 174 standards](#). CCRPC is in process of reviewing the Comprehensive Energy Plan and will email out a summary before the meeting. As a reminder the Act 174 standards lay out the enhanced energy planning requirements. The changes include a proposal to add areas of priority forest blocks as possible constraints. The memo discussing the proposed additions can be found [here](#). Staff suggests that the PAC review the Act 174 standards before the meeting and come prepared with comments, especially on the proposal for adding priority forest blocks. Melanie Needle will prepare some maps for the meeting to help with this discussion. Comments on both the CEP and the Act 174 standards are due on December 20, 2021. Also as a FYI, the [Initial Vermont Climate Action Plan](#) is now released.

3:10 Building Homes Together Campaign Update, *Regina Mahony*

Staff will provide a Building Homes Together 2.0 update.

3:20 Legislative Items *Regina Mahony*

CCRPC will have their Legislative Briefing on Tuesday, December 7th and the presentation will be posted [here](#) on that day. Regina Mahony will provide brief updates on housing, broadband, funding and will ask PAC members for an update on local cannabis retail conversations.

3:30 Members Items Open Forum, *Members*

If anyone has anything they'd like to bring up with the group, please do so.

(*continued***)**



3:45 Regional Act 250/Section 248 Projects on the Horizon - Please email Regina and Taylor with projects on the horizon.

3:50 Other Business

- a. The [FY23 UPWP Applications](#) were sent out before Thanksgiving. They are due on Friday, January 21, 2022. Please let Staff know if you have any questions or want to discuss any potential projects.
- b. VT Cannabis Control Board released [proposed Rule 1 – The Licensing of Cannabis Establishments](#) and [proposed Rule 2 – The Regulation of Cannabis Establishments](#) on November 24th.

4:00 Adjourn

* = Attachment

NEXT MEETING: January 12, 2021

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

Members Present:

Katherine Sonnick, Jericho
Eric Vorwald, Winooski
Owiso Makuku, Essex
Ravi Venkataraman, Richmond
David White, Burlington
Larry Lewack, Charlotte
Cymone Haiju, Milton
Ken Belliveau, Shelburne
Matt Boulanger, Williston

Staff:

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

Other:

9
10
11 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

13
14 **2. Approval of June 9, 2021 Minutes**

15
16 Eric Vorwald made a motion, seconded by Katherine Sonnick, to approve the June 9, 2021 minutes. No further
17 discussion. MOTION PASSED. Ravi Venkataraman, Ken Belliveau, Larry Lewack, David White and Cymone Haiju
18 abstained.
19

20 **3. 2020 Housing Data**

21
22 Melanie provided an overview of the 2020 housing data numbers, and the five-year average numbers in relation to
23 the ECOS future Planning Areas. Melanie also presented data from the first five years of the Building Homes
24 Together campaign on the [DRAFT dashboard](#).
25

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

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

1 **4. ECOS Plan Update**

2
3 Regina explained that it is time for CCRPC to update the ECOS Plan. We update this every five years because of the
4 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. It has also been 10
5 years since the original ECOS Plan and a lot of the regional plan pieces really can use an update at this point. Also,
6 we will be working with a new state Comprehensive Energy Plan and Climate Council actions. Regina asked the
7 PAC if there is a volunteer to serve on the Long Range Planning Committee to assist with the 2023 ECOS Plan
8 Update? Representatives from the CWAC, TAC & PAC would benefit the process, expected from Sept/Oct 2021 to
9 March/April 2023. The biggest committee engagement is anticipated to be in 2022.

10 Eric Vorwald might be interested; Regina Mahony will get back in touch with him when she knows when the LRPC
11 will be meeting.
12

13 **5. Broadband in Chittenden County**

14 Regina shared the broadband map that Pam Brangan has been working on for our region:
15 <https://tinyurl.com/CCRPCbroadband>. The map has a lot of data on it. When first opened the map shows the
16 approximately 2,000 households in the unserved, and underserved categories. These are small residential
17 neighborhoods all throughout the County. CCRPC has been talking with the Department of Public Service, Christine
18 Hallquist and Rob Fish of the Vermont Community Broadband Board, and the service providers in the region to try
19 to get a sense of how best to serve these households. There are going to be different solutions for each small
20 neighborhood pocket. It still seems clear that there is no reason to set up a Communications Union District in
21 Chittenden County; because the small providers themselves can apply for the state funds that the Vermont
22 Community Broadband Board will be responsible for. Municipalities can support those efforts. Regina added that
23 there are no funds available to the bigger service providers - Comcast and Consolidated; and there are currently no
24 funds available to upgrade those with 25/3 service to 100/100. Municipal ARPA funds can be used for broadband,
25 however those municipalities with water and sewer infrastructure that serves the majority of the residents in Town
26 may have a hard time justifying broadband projects that serve a very small percentage of households.
27

28 **6. Members Items Open Forum**

29
30 Eric Vorwald asked the PAC members how hybrid meetings are going?
31 Williston – using an owl for regular meetings, and CCTV for DRB meetings. There have actually been more tech
32 issues with the CCTV system so far.
33 Charlotte – they have a system with speakers that look like hockey pucks. Not working great because they are not
34 picking up all the sound. May have to switch to asking folks to come up to a microphone up front.
35 Shelburne – have owl cameras. Media factory broadcasts all the DRB meetings. People are heard in DRB meetings.
36 50 people in the room for a meeting last week.
37 Richmond – community TV set-up and working really well.
38 Jericho – MMTC – mounted the cameras on the wall; audience speaking has been rectified with a better microphone.
39 Essex – have hybrid that is working well and very few people are attending in person.
40

41 Any issue with people being heard and could that be used as a due process complaint? Members replied that it seems
42 to not be a problem with the use of the chat feature in addition to raising a hand when someone on the virtual
43 platform wants to talk.
44

45 Ravi Venkataraman asked the PAC if any other Towns have thought about the future evolution of gas stations and
46 how we transition vehicle fueling for the future? For example has anyone thought about limiting the number of gas
47 pumps on site, and including requirements for electric charging instead (especially the DC Fast charger), and
48 potentially alternative fuels? Trying to be rationale/reasonable. They've received a proposal for redevelopment of an
49 existing gas station. Taylor suggested keeping it simple – just limit the number of gasoline pumps. Consider putting a
50 DC charger in a municipal lot to serve as an example. Ken added that it doesn't seem clear from the research so far
51 that folks will go to traditional gas stations to charge up. Eric suggested that the simplify the use rather than
52 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.

36
37 Respectfully submitted, Regina Mahony