

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE - MINUTES
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4 DATE: Tuesday, April 12, 2022
5 TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
6 PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom with link as published on the agenda
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Members Present:

Bob Henneberger, TAC Rep
Eric Vorwald, PAC Rep from Winooski
Sandy Thibault, TAC Rep
Abby Bleything, Board Rep, Alt. Winooski
Tracey Delphia, Board Rep, Alt. Essex

Staff:

Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Marshall Distel, Senior Transportation Manager
Jason Charest, Senior Transportation Engineer
Eleni Churchill, Transportation Program Manager
Regina Mahony, Planning Program Manager
Charlie Baker, Executive Director

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10 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

11 Regina Mahony welcomed everyone at 6:03pm.

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13 **2. Approve March 31, 2022 Minutes**

14 Tracey Delphia made a motion, seconded by Eric Vorwald to approve the March 31, 2022 minutes with the
15 following amendment: correct the start time. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED.

16 **3. Review the DRAFT Working Landscapes, Rural Landscape and Habitat Section**

17 Regina Mahony walked through the draft document which included the following goal and key issue sections:
18 Working Lands; and Scenic, Recreational and Historic Resources. As well as the following strategy: Increase
19 investment in and decrease subdivision of working lands and significant habitats, and support local food systems.
20 Regina Mahony explained that this section goes hand in hand with the Smart Growth Strategy – that defines where
21 we want to grow; while this section explains how to protect the rural planning area.

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23 **Working Landscapes:**

24 Goals, Key/Issues comments from the LRPC:

- 25 • Are all the resources up to date at the top of the Working Lands section because some of the dates look fairly
26 old? Regina Mahony will double check – we may remove the reference to the old Analysis Report if we
27 aren't using it anymore. There may also be a more up to date reference on silviculture/forestry as well as
28 parcelization studies from VNRC.
- 29 • There is a new bill in the Legislature this session looking to expand the Current Use program to forests that
30 don't need to be actively managed. If this bill, as well as any Act 250 bills of relevance, get adopted this
31 section should be updated accordingly.
- 32 • Provide some reasons why the number of farms have increased.
- 33 • Check to make sure the number of sand/gravel extraction sites are up to date.

34 Staff explained that the agricultural and natural resource land lost to development from the MRLC NLCD EVA
35 Tool is more significant than what we discussed in the Ecological Systems section (specifically for wetland lost).
36 It could just be the reality of the different data sets, or specific land types. Also Staff will try to overlay this data
37 on our planning areas to see where these losses are happening. Melanie Needle added that there is also a useful
38 dashboard that we could include reference to.

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40 **Scenic, Recreational and Historic Resources:**

41 Staff explained that at the last meeting we reviewed the Arts, Culture and Recreation section, but there was much
42 of anything on recreation in that section. Staff stated that recreation is actually in this section, and it was likely an
43 editing error in the other section.

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45 Goals, Key/Issues comments from the LRPC:
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- 1 • Is there more recent data on new bike and ped infrastructure since 2018?
- 2 • Is there a source year for the land available for recreation indicator?

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4 Strategy/Action comments from the LRPC:

- 5 • There was a discussion about the forest inventory section and whether we will continue to describe
6 this in the same way. There may be edits here based on legislative action this year.
- 7 • There was a suggestion to be clear about which forest layers we are talking about and the location
8 of them.

9 Staff explained that we will circle back to the biomass references in this section after we look at the energy and
10 climate sections as the policy angle might shift a bit with greater emphasis on tree protection for carbon storage
11 and sequestration.

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13 **4. Adjourn**

14 The next meeting is set for May 10, 2022. The meeting adjourned at 6:36pm.

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16 Respectfully submitted, Regina Mahony
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