



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, March 19, 2024, 7:00 PM

MEETING DETAILS

Virtual: [Teams Meeting](#), ID: 224 634 587 902, Pass: dBEdSy | Call: 1-802-440-1368, ID: 641 278 173#

In-Person: The Opera House, 3rd Floor, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

(x = in person) (v = virtual)

TOWN	NAME	
Benson	Cheryl Murray	V
Brandon	Jack Schneider	X
Castleton	Frank Johnson	
Chittenden	Gary Congdon	
Clarendon	Brownson Spencer	X
Danby	Andrea Stoddard	V
Fair Haven	Bob Richards	
Hubbardton	Robert Gibbs	X
Ira	Bob Kirbach	V
Killington	Andrew Salamon	X
Mendon	Larry Courcelle	X
Middletown Springs	Steven Harrington	
Mount Holly	Jessica Metcalfe	V
Mount Tabor		
Pawlet	John Sabotka	V
Pittsford	Donna Wilson	X
Poultney	Sarah Pelkey	X
Proctor	Judy Frazier	

TOWN	NAME	
Rutland City	Michael Doenges	
Rutland Town	David Rosenblum	X
Shrewsbury	Laura Black	V
Sudbury	Barbara Somson	
Tinmouth	Robert Lloyd	V
Wallingford	Erika Berner	X
Wells	Don Preuss	
West Haven	Rod Ethier	
West Rutland	Leona Minard	
ACI-Natural Resources	Hilary Solomon	
Ex-Officio- CEDRR	Lyle Jepson	X
Ex-Officio- CEDRR	Cooper Babbit	
Ex-Officio- TAC		
Ex-Officio- RRWIB		

Guests: None present.

Staff: Devon Neary, Mary Kay Skaza, Karen Hill, Nic Stark (v)



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

1. PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Berner opened the public meeting for the Brandon Town Plan and Confirmation of Planning Process and the Pawlet Town Plan and Confirmation of Planning Process at 7:00 pm. No public present. Public hearing was closed at 7:01 pm.

2. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order by Chair Berner at 7:01 pm. Introductions were made. A moment of Silence was observed for Fred Nicholson.

3. APPROVAL OF March 19th AGENDA

Motion by Rosenblum to approve the agenda with changes to reflect the correction of the agenda date to March 19, 2024, and to add an agenda item, under the Regional Committee Report, the nomination and election of a new committee chairperson. Second by Salamon. Approved by voice vote.

4. APPROVAL OF February 20th MINUTES

Motion to approve the February 20, 2024, minutes by Gibbs. Second by Pelkey. Approved by voice vote.

5. OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present.

6. RRPC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Nic Stark, RRPC GIS Planner, provided an overview of the Rutland Regional Asset Mapping Project (RAMP) and the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) – Health Equity Toolkit. RAMP Phase 2 has been funded by VDH through a health equity implementation pilot and RAMP Phase 3 will continue with a Municipal Planning Grant through the Town of Brandon. Stark also informed the Board that he might need assistance connecting with their Planning Commissions of upcoming meetings. Stark will be reaching out to the board, through email, with more information about the project.

7. TREASURERS REPORT

Mary Kay Skaza reviewed the January 2024 Financials. Report for informational purposes only.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

RRPC held the first meeting of the Rutland Region Workforce Investment Board (RRWIB) since 2021. The board appointed new members, elected new officers, and approved the RRPC work scope for 2024-2025. For year 1, the RRPC will focus on making career exploration events available to every public high school in Rutland County. The board discussed long-term funding, programming, and coordination with other workforce development programs, events, and partners. The board will meet again in April where they will focus on a bylaw amendment and the “3-year vision”.



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

VAPDA is conducting an RPC evaluation for FY24/FY25. The evaluation will include an RPC board visit by two other RPC directors in May. VAPDA is also releasing a RFP for Consulting Services for Statewide Evaluation and Performance Accountability of Vermont Regional Planning Commissions. The scope of these services will be to review the goals of VAPDA and individual RPCs, conduct surveys of towns and commissioners, conduct interviews with partners, evaluate programs, engagement efforts, governance structures, and more. The report will provide each RPC with a matrix of strengths and weaknesses as well as a 5-year strategic plan for VAPDA.

RRPC will hold another Open Meeting Law Training with Vermont Secretary of State Sarah Copeland Hanzas in early/mid-May. RRPC is planning to offer more municipal training opportunities in the future.

RRPC will begin preparing the FY25 budget, updates to bylaws and policies, and conducting annual staff performance evaluations in April & May.

9. REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

Neary provided an update on Task 2 of the drafting process and the status of Phase 1 of the public engagement.

10. EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Skaza provided the Executive Finance Committee report of March 11th. No action taken. For informational purposes only.

11. REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Berner shared information about the nine projects that came before the committee.

Two land subdivision projects in Killington were discussed. No action was taken.

Five Green School Projects addressing stormwater runoff at schools with EPA funding were discussed. No action was taken.

One Project in Pawlet concerning parking lot changes, lighting and signage at a retail location was discussed. No action was taken.

One Project in Poultney regarding changing the use of a portion of the former Green Mountain College Campus into a destination hotel. Action was recommended by the committee in the form of a letter of support. **A Motion was made by Courcelle to send a letter of support from the RRPC. Second by Salamon. Approved by voice vote.**

Chair Berner asked for a nomination to be made for a new chairperson for the Regional Committee to fill the vacancy left by Fred Nicholson. No nominations were made. Chair Berner will act as the interim chair of this committee until it is filled.



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

12. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Motion by Courcelle to forward to the Board of Commissioners a recommendation for approval of the Brandon Town Plan and Confirmation of Planning Process and the determination of compliance of Brandon's Enhanced Energy Plan Compliance and the Pawlet Town Plan and Confirmation of Planning Process. Second by Salamon. Approved by voice vote.

13. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT

Neary provided the Transportation Advisory Committee Report. The TAC is working on developing a list of projects to be included in the Transportation Chapter of the 2026 Regional Plan.

14. AREA WIDE CITIZENS

No report.

15. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Lyle Jepson, representing CEDRR shared a student production video showcasing the growing and award-winning student robotics club. He shared that we are raising talented youth who will shortly be choosing where to build their futures. He urged that the good work that our dual organization are doing should include molding communities that this next highly educated generation will find attractive.

16. COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE

Laura Black shared a "Community Values Mapping Project" that Shrewsbury is working on. This project will include a series of events where community members will gather to map areas that have significance to them and capture reasons why. These maps will assist Shrewsbury's ongoing development/conservation projects.

17. ADJOURN

Rosenblum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Wilson. Chair Berner adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.

Respectively submitted by Karen Hill