



# RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## RRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

### MEETING ATTENDANCE

(x = in person) (v = virtual)

TOWN	NAME	
Benson	Cheryl Murray	
Brandon	Jack Schneider	X
Castleton	Liz Mackay	X
Chittenden	Gary Congdon	
Clarendon	Brownson Spencer	
Danby	Michelle Bushee	
Fair Haven	Jason Coupal	
Hubbardton	Robert Gibbs	X
Ira	Bob Kirbach	V
Killington	Will Austin	V
Mendon	Larry Courcelle	X
Middletown Springs	Steven Harrington	
Mount Holly	Jessica Metcalfe	V
Mount Tabor		
Pawlet	John Sabotka	
Pittsford	Donna Wilson	V
Poultney	Sarah Pelkey	V
Proctor	Judy Frazier	V

TOWN	NAME	
Rutland City	Michael Doenges	X
Rutland Town	David Rosenblum	X
Shrewsbury	Laura Black	V
Sudbury	Barbara Somson	V
Tinmouth	Robert Lloyd	
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	V
Ex-Officio- CEDRR	Cooper Babbit	
Ex-Officio- TAC		
Ex-Officio- RRWIB		

**Guests:** VAPDA Executive Directors: Peter Gregory (TRORC), Jason Rasmussen (MARC) **VELCO:** Shana Louiselle, Luke Looman **VTDEC:** Madeline Russell, Gianna Petito, Terry Purcell **Other:** Heather Thomas



# RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**Staff:** Devon Neary, Mary Kay Skaza, Karen Hill, Logan Solomon, Rob Boucher, Courtney Moore, Maggie O'Brien (V)

## MEETING MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting called to order by Chair Berner at 7:00pm. Introductions were made.

### 2. APPROVAL OF May 21<sup>st</sup> AGENDA

Motion by Courcelle to approve the agenda with the following corrections (agenda date: 5/21/24 and minutes date: 4/16/24). Second by Doenges. Approved by voice vote.

### 3. APPROVAL OF April 16<sup>th</sup> MINUTES

Motion to approve the April 16, 2024, minutes by Gibbs. Second by Rosenblum. Approved by voice vote.

### 4. OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present.

### 5. VELCO PRESENTATION

VELCO presented the findings of the 2024 VT Long-Range Transmission Plan. VELCO is seeking input on the plan that may include transmission infrastructure upgrades and renewable energy generation in the Rutland Region.

### 6. VTDEC PRESENTATION

Maddeline Russell from Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) presented on the 3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance Program. The POA Program offers funding assistance for eligible 3-acre sites pursuing 3-acre permit obtainment. The awards are up to \$49,999 with up to \$30,000 for engineering expenses and \$19,999 for permit review fees. There are currently 89 properties subject to the 3-acre permit in Rutland County with only 9 POA applications. The VTDEC is asking eligible entities to reach out for more information and to apply before the September 30, 2024, deadline.

### 7. REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE

Neary provided an update on the review of Task 2 Revision 1 drafting, introduced the Phase 1 public engagement report and shared that the staff are developing a strategy for Phase 2 engagement. Phase two will be launched after July 1.

### 8. REGIONAL PLAN PRESENTATION

Interns Courtney Moore and Robert Boucher presented the Regional Plan Draft Engagement Report, "Phase 1: Learn and Assess". The interns also presented the results of the 2026 Regional Plan Public Survey. Those results and the report will be available online. Neary thanked Boucher and Moore for their hard work and contributions throughout last semester.



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## 9. MARCH 2024 FINANCIALS

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

## 10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

June marks the annual meeting of the RRPC Board of Commissioners. We will be electing officers, reviewing, and approving updates to policies and procedures, and reviewing the FY25 RRPC Work Plan and Budget.

RRPC is co-hosting a housing developer event with Bennington Regional Commission and Department of Housing and Community Development on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Hub CoWorks. This networking, training, and resource-sharing event will focus on implementing the Homes for All Toolkit to help attract more housing development to Southwestern Vermont.

RRPC is co-hosting an Open Meeting Law Training with the Secretary of State's Office on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the RRPC Office on Merchants Row. The training is open to the public and geared to local government officials. Please help spread the word to your town's board and committees and sign up/submit questions using the online form.

Director Gregory from Two-Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Planning Commission and Director Rassmussen from Mount Ascutney Regional Commission will be present at the May meeting for the RPC peer evaluation. This will kick-off the strategy planning/review effort by VAPDA.

Vermont Emergency Management has nearly \$90M of Hazard Management Grant Program funds. The potential eligible projects include flood-vulnerable buyout and structural elevations; natural resource projects such as floodplain restorations or dam removals; infrastructure projects such as upsizing bridges or culverts; floodproofing of municipal or commercial buildings; and road relocation, road elevations, or soil stabilization. Projects require no match and there is project development assistance in the form of scoping, engineering, and cost/benefit analysis from VEM. The pre-application is due June 21<sup>st</sup> so contact Maggie O'Brien for more information right away.

Our interns Robert Boucher from Castleton University and Courtney Moore from Vermont Law and Graduate School have completed their internship at the RRPC. Special thanks to them and all the great work completed during the spring semester.

### Legislative Updates:

S.55 Open Meeting Law: passed by legislature.

H.875 Municipal Code of Ethics: passed by legislature.

H.687 Act 250 Reform: passed by legislature

## 11. EXECUTIVE/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Neary reported that the committee met on May 13, 2024, formed the nominating committee, but took no other significant action at this meeting. The nominating committee includes Jack Schneider, Sarah Pelkey, and Judy Frazier.



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## 12. REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Berner provided the Regional Committee report. The committee reviewed two S.248 45-day notices. The first, a 20MW solar project located at 1020 Sheldon Road in Fair Haven, was reviewed last month with the committee requesting information from the Town. Neary reached out to the town and reported that the town had not taken a position and did not feel like they had standing without an active enhanced energy plan and substantial deference with the PUC. The second, a 125-kW solar project at SolarFest in Brandon, was supported by the committee. Commissioner Schneider reported that this was a preferred site in the Brandon Enhanced Energy Plan and had broad support from the town. **Motion by Pelkey to issue a letter to the PUC stating conformance with the regional plan and no significant regional impacts. Second by Rosenblum. Approved by voice vote.**

The committee also reviewed three Act 250 applications: the demolition of former College of Saint Joseph dormitories by Casella Waste Systems; the construction of a storage building at the Rutland Airport; and a subdivision for 14 single family residences by Mountainside Properties in Killington. No action was taken for any project.

## 13. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

## 14. TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) REPORT

The TAC met with District 1 & 3 Administrator Christopher Taft, who got the chance to meet and hear from TAC members, as well as presenting to the TAC district grants for paving, structures and emergency repairs. There is no May meeting.

## 15. AREA WIDE CITIZENS

No report.

## 16. EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

No report.

## 17. COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE

No report.

## 18. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Rosenblum. Second by Doenges. Adjourned the meeting at 8:44 pm.

*Respectively submitted by Karen Hill*