

Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
 July 25, 2023

LCPC Board Members present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Belvidere	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds		Morristown	<i>Vacant</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cambridge Town	Dick Goff <i>(Video)</i>		Morrisville	<i>Vacant</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cambridge Town	Sandy Albright <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stowe	Marina Meerburg
	Cambridge Village	<i>Vacant</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stowe	Brian Leven <i>(Video)</i>
	Eden	<i>Vacant</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterville	Jeffrey Tilton
	Elmore	Trevor Braun <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wolcott	Maxfield English <i>(Video)</i>
	Hyde Park Town	Greg Paus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Director	Leo Clark
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hyde Park Town	Richard Pearson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Director	Liz Courtney <i>(Video)</i>
	Hyde Park Village	Riki French	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Director	Caleb Magoon
	Jeffersonville	<i>Vacant</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Director	Linda Martin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Johnson Town	Duncan Hastings <i>(Video)</i>		County Director	Roger Murphy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Johnson Village	GiGi Beach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex Officio	Pat Ripley <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Morristown	Judy Bickford			

Lamoille County Planning Commission Staff: Tasha Wallis, Seth Jensen, Salvador Morales, Meghan Rodier, Georgeana Little

Guests: Nick Lange, Gordon *(Video)*, Kristina Brown *(Video)*. Kathy’s iPad

Caleb Magoon called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Adjustments to the Agenda & Opportunity for Public Comment

The Smuggs’ update will be moved after the Plan and Project Review Report. There was no public comment.

Caleb thanked our landlords, Demars Properties, for hosting the SBA center in response to the recent flooding.

Caleb reported that Sal Morales would be leaving the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) to return to California.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers to the Board:

Chair – Caleb Magoon

Vice Chair – Brian Leven

Treasurer – Leo Clark

Secretary – Dick Goff

Election of Officers

Linda Martin moved to accept the slate of officers as proposed by the Nominating Committee.

Judy Bickford Seconded. Motion carried.

Regional Plan Information Session

Meghan Rodier reported that this is the last of 3 information sessions. The session will review Section 5 on Public Safety, Culture & Community, and Public Facilities.

Meghan and Salvador Morales gave an overview of the changes to these sections.

Committee members should read the plan and address any questions or comments to Meghan Rodier by email or USPS.

Brian Leven, Chair of the Regional Plan Committee, thanked Meghan and Salvador for all their work during this process.

Approval of June 13, 2023 Minutes

Duncan Hastings motioned to accept the minutes of the June 13, 2023 meeting. Marina

Meerburg seconded. Motion carried with one abstention.

Plan and Project Review Report

Dick Goff reported that Vermont Green Energy Systems – Walnut Lane Wind was proposing a small 15.6KW wind turbine in Wolcott. The tower will be mostly inconspicuous and falls well below the level of commercial wind discouraged in the Regional Plan. The project conforms with the Regional Plan

Leo Clark motioned to direct the staff to write a letter to the Public Utilities Commission, with copies to the applicant and the Town, indicating that the project was in conformance with the Regional Plan and reserving the right to revisit the issue if the project changes. Dick Goff seconded. Motion carried.

Smuggs' Update

Seth Jensen reported that the parking and stormwater project was well underway and was about a month ahead of schedule. However, because of the recent flooding, work will slow down. The project is still on schedule, but no longer likely to conclude early. The work done to date held up well during the storms.

VTrans will be testing the idea of using Chicanes to deter tractor trailers from entering the Notch. Removable, artificial curbs will be deployed at the entrance to the Notch on both sides to catch trucks that would otherwise become stuck. This project is also likely to be delayed as VTrans deals with the recent disaster.

No new streams were reported in the Notch after the storms, showing that mitigation measures undertaken were successful. Funding has been approved for additional mitigation work.

Brownfields Funding Requests

Two projects are under consideration after having been approved by the Brownfields Committee.

Phase II assessment on properties on East Elmore Road in Wolcott. The Brownfields Committee recommends the assessment to ascertain what contaminants are present. The cost is \$12,512.

GiGi Beach motioned to approve the Phase II assessment in the amount of \$12,512. Leo Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Phase I assessment of the Johnson Village Garage on Railroad Street which the Village wishes to update. These assessments are usually done when a site is being sold, but this was approved even though no sale is pending. The initial proposal sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was returned for revision and will be resubmitted. The cost is \$3,000.

Leo Clark motioned to approve the Phase I assessment for \$3,000 contingent on approval by the EPA. Gigi Beach seconded. Motion carried.

FY24 Budget Proposal

The budget approved in June was based on the Governor's budget. The Legislature's budget contains \$100,000 additional for LCPC. We are also receiving \$27,000 for housing navigation that was not in the approved budget. Additional grants may also be coming. Tasha Wallis will present a revised budget to the Board at the September Board meeting to be voted on in October. A mid-year Budget adjustment in January may also be necessary.

Committee Signup

The Board was shown the current makeup of the Committees and members were requested to let Caleb and Tasha know their preferences.

Executive Director's Report

- Tasha wanted to recognize those Directors working directly with their communities– Duncan Hastings, Judy Bickford, and Linda Martin.
- The Agency of Natural Resources has asked the planning commissions to hold planning sessions concerning the recent damage.
- Tasha will be serving on the Flood Response Housing Needs Committee.
- Vermont Pubic has an article on their Web site about the damage done by the storm.
- We will be applying for multiple grants in the months ahead.
- The Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) is now accepting requests for assessments.

August Meeting & Public Hearing Discussion

The August meeting is usually cancelled. This year there will be a Public Hearing on the Regional Plan on the date of the August meeting. The question was raised as to whether the meeting should be cancelled this year. After a discussion, it was decided to hold the Board meeting on its usual date with the Public Hearing as part of it.

Community Updates

Waterbury – Caleb's store in Waterbury was flooded but not on the 1st floor. Waterville – Unscathed by the flooding

Morristown – The Oxbow was destroyed in the flooding; They are looking for an interim Town Administrator; The Human Resources Director is leaving; The vote on the budget is scheduled for August 29th; 2 Selectboard positions are up for reelection; There is a petition to change to a Town Manager form of government.

Belvidere – They fared well due to work done after the Halloween storm; Music venues flooded out have requested the use of Belvidere's pavilion.

Wolcott – About 20 people were flooded out; Highways were not as badly damaged as they were in the Halloween storm; Town Offices are left open 24/7 with supplies available.

Stowe – They came through with little damage thanks to previous mitigation work; They were able to help Morristown when their water was adversely affected.

Johnson – They were hit hard and will take some time to rebound; They received help from neighboring towns.

Hyde Park – They made out fairly well although some roads are closed due to damage. Cambridge – They were hit hard with Cambridge Village completely flooded.

LEDC – They are offering support services to businesses; 55-60 businesses have reported damage; there is an Small Business Administration (SBA) office in Morrisville

Meeting Adjourned

Linda Martin motioned to adjourn. Judy Bickford seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm.