

Lamoille County Planning Commission

Executive Committee Meeting

September 12, 2023

Members present:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Leo Clark (Treasurer)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Leven (Vice Chair) <i>Video</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greg Paus	<input type="checkbox"/>	Riki French
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Magoon (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Duncan Hastings <i>Video</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dick Goff (Secretary)		

Staff: Tasha Wallis, Seth Jensen, Georgeana Little

Chair Caleb Magoon called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Adjustments to the Agenda & Opportunity for Public Comment

The meeting will start with the Smuggs’ Update and other adjustments may be needed until quorum is reached. There was no public comment.

Smuggs’ Update

Seth Jensen reported that this year’s project is nearing completion. Most plantings are in and the final asphalt will be laid this week or next. There have been a few problems, which is not unexpected in a project of this size.

- Someone has been stealing the plants, which were specifically developed for the alpine climate of the Notch and will not survive in other climates. The reason for the theft is unknown. Some signage indicating the uniqueness of the vegetation should be considered.
- People have been parking on the medians in the new parking areas. These medians were designed for drainage and should not be used for parking. Forest and Parks proposed stone and timber barriers to discourage parking in these areas but were not able to get the material in time for this season. The contractor reused metal posts which will be removed and replaced with wood next season.
- Forest and Parks wants to wait to do the striping until next year.

On another subject, Brian asked about the chicanes, which were to be tested this fall to discourage “stuckages.” The project was delayed because of the flooding.

Executive Director's Report

- Rob Moore has left the Lamoille County Planning Commission. Alberto Della Torre, the new Assistant Planner, will start in 2 weeks.
- Next Friday the staff will have a clean-up day.
- We will be renting the 2 small rooms next to our current offices for storage and additional office space. The rent was quoted at \$213/month.

Act 47 Land Use Map Study

The Legislature passed Act 47 which includes a study of recommendations for consistency across regions in their Land Use maps. The Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA) was given the task of coming up with a statewide model to be reviewed by all regions. There are definitely regional differences that will have to be reconciled. Lamoille County is probably the major outlier. Brian Leven asked what problem we are trying to solve with this Act? VAPDA is working on developing a suggested template which will be brought before the Board at a future time. The deadline for producing this template as part of the study is 12/15/23.

Approval of July 11, 2023 Minutes

Greg Paus motioned to approve the July 11, 2023 minutes. Duncan Hastings Seconded. Motion carried.

FY24 Budget Update

The budget approved in June was based on the Governor's proposed budget. Since then, the Legislature has made adjustments, significantly increasing the state allocation to the Regional Planning Commissions. In addition, the allocation of monies to the Smugglers' Notch project have been updated to reflect the current status of the project. There are other small changes that reflect current awards. This amendment to the budget will be presented to the Board at the September Board meeting to be voted on at the October Meeting.

Duncan Hastings reported that the Town of Johnson has been awarded a \$860,000 grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission for developing their light industrial and commercial park. Additional funds are being sought.

Meeting Adjourned

Greg Paus motioned to adjourn. Duncan Hastings seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.