

Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
September 26, 2023

LCPC Board Members present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Belvidere	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Morristown	Dan McLaughlin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cambridge Town	Dick Goff <i>(Video)</i>		Morrisville	<i>Vacant</i>
	Cambridge Town	<i>Vacant</i>		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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elmore	Trevor Braun <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wolcott	Maxfield English <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hyde Park Town	Greg Paus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Director	Leo Clark <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hyde Park Town	Richard Pearson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Director	Liz Courtney <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Director	Roger Murphy <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Johnson Village	GiGi Beach		Ex Officio	Pat Ripley
	Morristown	Judy Bickford			

Lamoille County Planning Commission Staff: Tasha Wallis, Alberto Della Torre, Victoria Hellwig *(Video)*, Seth Jensen, Alec Jones, Meghan Rodier, Georgeana Little

Guests: Beth Foy *(Video)*, Valerie Valcour *(Video)*

Caleb Magoon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Caleb introduced Alberto Della Torre, the new Assistant Planner who started working at LCPC this week. He also reported the Alec Jones would be taking over the duties of Transportation Planner now that Rob Moore has moved on.

Public Hearing

Meghan Rodier, Regional Planner, gave a brief overview of the work done on the Regional Plan to date including downsizing the Transportation section and updating a lot of the data and demographic information. The staff have reviewed all comments made at the 1st Public Hearing and incorporated changes into the plan as necessary. Comments made since the 1st Public Hearing have been addressed, primarily in the area of health equity.

The current draft will be updated and voted on by the Board at the October Board meeting. Any future changes will be made through the amendment process.

Some comments were made about addressing flood response. This area will be looked at during the amendment process.

Approval of August 22, 2023 Minutes

Greg Paus motioned to accept the minutes of the August 22, 2023 meeting. Linda Martin seconded. Motion carried with five abstentions.

Committee Assignments

Caleb reminded the Board that Committee assignments had been made, the list being in the Board packet, and said that anyone wishing to change their assigned committees should contact him.

Brownfields Committee Request

Alec Jones reported that DeNoia's Laundry has completed a Phase 1 assessment. Because of the amount of paperwork that the consultant had to review, they were asking for supplemental funds. In addition, there is a request for Phase 2 funding for developing a work plan, budget, and brella for the project. The total funds requested are \$8,175.00. The Brownfields Committee approved the request and sent it on to the Board for final approval. In answer to a question, Alec explained that a brella is a certificate holding a purchaser harmless for prior contamination. A short discussion, primarily focused on the Brownfields process and funding, followed.

Duncan Hastings motioned to approve the request for \$8,175.00 for supplemental Phase 1 and Phase 2 funding for DeNoia's Laundry. Linda Martin seconded. Motion carried.

Draft Revised FY24 Budget

Leo Clark told the Board that the budget has been reduced from what was approved in June. This decrease is due to the Smugglers' Notch project being ahead of schedule. Funding slated for FY24 was actually used in FY23.

There was an increase in our Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) funding. The original budget was based on the Governor's budget. Funds in the Legislature's budget were more generous. This funding increased from \$344,000 to \$456,000.

There were some funds added since the budget was approved including the Housing Navigator funds for helping municipalities plan for housing. The budget will be voted on at the October meeting.

Act 47 Land Use Mapping Project

This act asks the regional planning commissions (RPCs) to develop land use maps that are more consistent region to region. The RPCs need to come up with recommendations to report to the legislature next session. This plan could be difficult for Lamoille County since we are significantly different from other parts of the state. Duncan Hastings voiced concern that too much consistency could be counterproductive. Tasha Wallis and Seth Jensen will present the results of the RPC's discussions to date at the next board meeting.

Smuggs' Update

The project will be completed next week. The major concern at this time is that some of the plantings have been stolen. Thieves have dug up plants and even some trees. These plantings were developed specifically for the alpine climate of the Notch and might not survive at lower altitudes. Cameras have been set up to monitor the area.

One more phase will be needed to complete the work in the Notch. There is no funding yet, but we are hoping for earmark funding from our legislative delegation

Cambridge Energy Plan Update

Cambridge has completed their Enhanced Energy Plan and the Board will need to vote on a Determination of Energy Compliance at the October Board meeting. The meeting will include a Public Hearing.

Executive Director's Report

- There was no Plan and Project Review meeting this week but we will soon be seeing a project at 52 Portland Street.
- The Annual Report is complete and will be sent out soon.
- Municipal Appropriation letters will be sent out in October and will include an explanation of the increase in dues approved by the Board.
- The audit is underway and we will be having a single audit for the first time in several years.
- We have added 2 rooms to our office space for storage and one office.

Community Updates

Hyde Park – The artwork at the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail trailhead had its official opening. The Gihan Valley Hall now has something on its calendar every week.

Lamoille FiberNet – they have signed a contract with Consolidated Communications to begin the buildout to underserved areas.

Morristown – Rocktoberfest is this Saturday.

Belvidere – The town hosted a music festival that was scheduled for Morrisville but had to be moved because of the flooding. There was also a mini popup Bluegrass festival with proceeds going to the Belvidere Community Fund.

Hyde Park Village – They have a new General Manager, Brian Evans-Mongeon, who is doing a great job. They had a retreat with Village employees and the Trustees.

Wolcott – They are buying 700 acres for a Community Forest. Funding for the final parcel is still not firm. The Planning Commission is working on a healthy community design.

Johnson Village – Everyone should thank the workers who worked to cleanup the wastewater treatment plant and get it up and running again.

Elmore – The Annual Fire Department dinner is coming up. Work at the Elmore store is progressing with septic system and electrical upgrades and a backup generator.

Johnson – The town has hired a Town Administrator and an Economic Development Specialist. They have received a grant to develop a commercial park, which may also include housing.

Stowe – Silly season has begun. The Middle and High Schools are proposing a \$39 million capital improvement project. A public meeting on the proposal will be held tomorrow.

Meeting Adjourned

Greg Paus motioned to adjourn. Linda Martin seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.