

Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2024

LCPC Board Members present

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Belvidere	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds		Morristown	Dan McLaughlin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cambridge Town	Dick Goff <i>(Video)</i>		Morrisville	Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cambridge Town	Sam Lotto <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stowe	Marina Meerburg
	Cambridge Village	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stowe	Brian Leven <i>(Video)</i>
	Eden	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterville	Jeffrey Tilton <i>(Video)</i>
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hyde Park Town	Richard Pearson <i>(Video)</i>	<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	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Director	Linda Martin <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Johnson Town	Duncan Hastings <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Director	Roger Murphy <i>(Video)</i>
	Johnson Village	GiGi Beach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ex Officio	Pat Ripley <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Morristown	Judy Bickford <i>(Video)</i>			

Lamoille County Planning Commission Staff: Tasha Wallis, Georgeana Little

Caleb Magoon called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Changes to the Agenda and Public Comment

There will be no PPR Report. There was no public comment.

Approval of November 28, 2023 Minutes

Carol Caldwell-Edmonds asked that the Belvidere Community Update be changed to "Select Board and Planning Commission members are meeting with Rob Blish from Vermont Covered to discuss possible Mac Mountain mini-cell tower installations." Leo Clark motioned to accept the

November 28, 2023 minutes with the change. Marina Meerburg seconded. Motion carried with one change.

Approval of New Grants

Tasha Wallis explained that grants over \$30,000 need to be approved by the Board. She discussed each grant in turn to augment the information in the Board packet.

Greg Paus motioned to approve the

- *Updated Municipal Technical Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$114,287.96;*
- *Municipal Planning grant in the amount of \$40,500;*
- *SS4A Transportation grant in the amount of \$126,895;*
- *Clean Water Service Provider Flood Plain Restoration at Gulf Road in Wolcott grant in the amount of \$46,499.81; and*
- *Clean Water Service Provider Centerville Brook Dam Removal in Hyde Park grant in the amount of \$52,000.31.*

Liz Courtney seconded. Motion carried.

Brownfields Committee Requests

Tasha reminded the Board that staff apply for new Brownfields grants after all the money is drawn down. Both requests have been approved by the Brownfields Committee. The DeNoia's Laundromat request is large, but that reflects the complexity of the project area and the importance of the property as an anchor in the village center. Jeff Tilton asked if the Brownfields Committee received updates on projects. Linda Martin, a member of the Brownfields Committee, reported that the committee is kept apprised of all projects. Judy Bickford asked if DeNoia's would need to close down. The property is being sold but no change in use is foreseen.

Tasha reported that the contractor for the Wolcott Town Forest request has increased their estimate from the requested \$1,526 to \$2,200. The additional amount will need to be voted on at the next Brownfields Committee meeting before being brought before this Board.

Linda Martin motioned to except the recommendation of the Brownfields Committee to award \$114,400 for Phase II work at 140 Portland Street, Morrisville and \$1,526 for BRELLA Application Support for the Wolcott Town Forest. Greg Paus seconded. Motion carried.

Update to Personnel Policy

A change in state law regarding harassment in the workplace requires us to update our Personnel Policy. With permission, we used the policy created for the Chittenden County Planning Commission (CCRPC) and Brian Leven has reviewed that policy and made changes that better reflect Lamoille County. He reported that only minor changes were necessary. Brian will review the changes with the Board at the February meeting.

Flood Recovery Update

The Village of Johnson needs a new wastewater plant as well as other infrastructure updates. There have been numerous requests for buyouts in Cambridge, Johnson, and Wolcott. Buyouts can be a long process. Some families have been displaced and others are living in damaged properties. The Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) is offering technical assistance to the towns and is assisting the Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LEARN), a local non-profit, in their efforts.

Financial Services & Budget Update

Leo Clark reported that the Board gets quarterly reports and budget update requests. LCPC is in a good financial position, running at about 50% in revenues and expenses. This budget request reflects an increase of \$141,233 due to grants received since the budget approved in October.

Tasha told the Board that Forest and Parks has approved \$200,000 to be used as match for the final phase of the Smuggs' Parking and Stormwater project. The Vermont Department of Transportation (VTrans) has added this project to their Statewide Transportation Improvement Project (STIP) and we will be requesting congressionally directed spending from Sen Sanders to complete the project.

Our core funding from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) is included in the Governor's budget at last year's rate plus 3%.

Executive Director's Report

- As reported previously, Nicole Sancibrian will not be renewing her accounting contract in June. We have been advertising for a Finance Manager and have received 2 applicants to date.
- Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (LFCUD) has moved in to one of our spare rooms and will be using it one or two days a month. Members of the LFCUD board present added that they had just signed a contract with Consolidated Communications and will begin building out the system in May.
- VTrans is planning to install temporary chicanes on either end of the Notch Road to test this method of deterring "stuckages."
- There is hope for Act 250 reform in the legislature. Housing is important this year in the legislature. Representative Ballant will be in Lamoille County tomorrow to discuss the housing problem.

Judy Bickford asked when the Housing Needs Assessment would be ready. Tasha said it would be ready within a month. The Lamoille Economic Development Corporation (LEDC) is contributing to this study. She suggested holding a conference in the spring on housing.

Duncan Hastings reported that there is a bill in the legislature to require the use of electronics at all meetings. The Secretary of State strongly supports hybrid meetings.

Community Updates

Cambridge – there will be no vote at Town Meeting this year on the Community Center purchase.

Elmore – The Selectboard is looking to move Town Meeting to the evening. Ski the Catamount Trail.

Hyde Park – The Lanpher Library held a flood resiliency event which was enjoyed by people of all ages. The Town has formed an Energy Committee. They will make people aware of the 20/20 energy code. The town is considering changes to the zoning code to allow for more electric car charging stations.

Johnson – The Selectboard has approved a budget and other items in preparation for Town Meeting day. They are struggling with buyouts.

LEDC – The spring Legislative Breakfasts have begun. The dates can be found on the LEDC Website.

Morristown – The town held a successful first Community Meeting Day held in *lieu* of Town Meeting. Morristown has hired an interim Town Manager. A meeting about crime in the town was well attended. There is only a small group causing the problems.

Stowe – The Grand List reappraisal is coming out in March. The Selectboard is working on a short-term rental (STR) ordinance which will include a registry and certain requirements for STRs.

Wolcott – The bond vote for the wastewater system will be held June 11th. The town has received \$640,000 towards this project from the Community Revitalization Program among other monies.

Meeting Adjourned

Greg Paus motioned to adjourn. Leo Clark seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.