

Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2024

LCPC Board Members present

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

Lamoille County Planning Commission Staff: Tasha Wallis, Alberto Della Torre, Seth Jensen, Melissa Manka, Meghan Rodier, Georgeana Little
Guests: Susan Sinnott, Heather Snyder

Caleb Magoon called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Susan Sinnott was introduced as the new Finance Manager who will start on April 1. Caleb called for a round of introductions for the benefit of our guests.

Changes to the Agenda and Public Comment

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

Approval of January 23, 2024 Minutes

Leo Clark motioned to accept the January 23, 2024 minutes. Marina Meerburg seconded. Motion carried.

Housing Reform Training

Tasha Wallis urged everyone to fill out the evaluation form after the training. Seth Jensen presented the training beginning by reporting that housing has been a major point of discussion in the Legislature for several years driven by several issues. In 2023 the Legislature passed the Home Act (Act 47) that would remove barriers for some housing needs. This year they are again focusing on housing. The current discussions are based on three studies – The Regional Planning Report done by the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA), Review of the Designation Programs, and the Act 250 Updates done by the Natural Resources Board. The basic structure is Future Land Use Regional Maps to State Designation to Act 250 Exemption.

There are still a lot of unknowns as various bills work their way through the Legislature. The Board will be kept informed as more information becomes available.

A general discussion followed the presentation.

Approval of Forest & Parks Grant

This grant will act as match for a proposed congressionally directed spending grant through Senator Sanders' Office.

Greg Paus motioned to accept the Forest and Parks grant in the amount of \$200,000. Riki French seconded. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

This committee has a number of new members. Board Members should be thinking of possible Marvin Award nominees as well as possible locations for the Annual Meeting in June.

Cambridge was suggested as a location since we have not been on that side of the county for several years.

Personnel Policy Update

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 Regional 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. This language will be incorporated into our Personnel Policy and voted on next month.

Dick Goff wondered if the language should be reworked to include Board Members. Since this is a personnel policy, that idea was rejected but the Board Code of Conduct will be looked at to see if similar language is in that policy. He also wanted to know why some of the language

stated that actions would be unacceptable “if it is known or should be known” that such behavior is unacceptable. Brian explained that the wording comes directly from statute.

Approval of Budget Update

Leo Clark explained that this is the same mid-year budget adjustment that the Board saw last month. He urged acceptance.

Duncan Hastings motioned to accept the Mid-year budget adjustment in the amount of \$2,179,876. Leo Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Executive Director’s Report

- Several municipal plans are coming due in the next year or two. Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) helps the towns with these plans and has obtained a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) to pay for assisting with some updates.
- The regional planning commissions have instituted a peer review process.
- There is still no audit or single audit.
- At our next Board meeting Lisa Birmingham of the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (LFCUD) will be present to present the work so far. Sarah Henshaw of the Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LeARN) will also speak to the Board next month.
- The Waterville Village designation has been renewed.
- There is currently a municipal seat vacant on the Clean Water Service Provider (CWSP) Board. Let Meghan Rodier know if you are interested in serving on that board. Dick Goff is LCPC’s representative on that Board.
- Along with Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) and Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) LCPC will apply for an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for a hydraulic mapping of the Lamoille mainstem.

Community Updates

Stowe – The town has a new Short Term Rental (STR) registry ordinance and will hold it’s first meeting soon.

Morristown – Tricia Follert is working on plans for the day of the eclipse

Hyde Park – They have a new Village Manager.

Johnson – Johnson Works is having an egg hunt Saturday before easter.

Cambridge – There are three articles on the warning for town meeting related to switching to Australian ballot. It should make for a lively meeting.

Wolcott – The bond vote for the wastewater system will be held June 11th. A Community Roundtable will be held on March 12th.

Elmore – They have a new Zoning Administrator

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (JEDI) – The committee is drafting “Considerations for Inclusive Town Planning”.

Meeting Adjourned

Greg Paus motioned to adjourn. Judy Bickford seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.