

Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes
 March 26, 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stowe	Marina Meerburg
	Cambridge Village	Vacant		Stowe	Brian Leven
	Eden	Vacant	<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>
	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>
<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>	<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, Meghan Rodier, Georgeana Little

Guests: David Snedeker, Christian Meyer, Sarah Henshaw, Lisa Birmingham

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

There was an introduction of attendees. David Snedeker, Executive Director of Northeastern Vermont Development Agency and Christian Meyer, Executive Director of Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, were present as part of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agency’s (VAPDA) Peer Review Process.

Changes to the Agenda and Public Comment

There will be no PPR Report. Judy Bickford posed a question to the other Board Members about civility on Front Porch Forum. Other members reported some heated discussions but no really negative posts or misinformation.

Approval of February 25, 2024 Minutes

Leo Clark motioned to accept the February 25, 2024 minutes. Marina Meerburg seconded. A minor typological error was pointed out under the Approval of Forests and Parks Grant item. Motion carried with the correction. There were 2 abstentions.

Sarah Henshaw

Sarah is the Executive Director of the Lamoille Area Recovery Network (LeARN) formed after the July flooding as a long-term recovery group. Their purpose is to manage disaster funds, provide outreach and information to those impacted by the flooding, and to link them to support. She was asked if the organization will be permanent. Sarah said she expects it will be an organization that can be stood up when needed.

Lisa Birmingham

Lisa is the Executive Director of the Lamoille FiberNet Communications Union District (LFCUD). The purpose of LFCUD is to be sure that everyone in the county has access to high speed broadband internet. Phase one is underway and due to be completed this year. They are planning for Phase 2, which will be funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) funds. Only unserved or underserved addresses are eligible for this funding. They are now challenging some of the data on served addresses to be sure the funds are spent appropriately.

Energy Plan Discussion

Meghan Rodier, Regional Planner, explained that the Energy section of the Regional Plan needs to be updated to maintain our Enhanced Energy certification. The update is underway and should be completed by the fall. An equity component is being added and the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (JEDI) will be consulted on that component. The Regional Plan Committee will review all updates before Public Hearings this summer.

Approval of Resilience Initiative for Vermont Empowerment and Recovery (RIVER) Grant.

This grant will allow LCPC to conduct a public engagement procesa to identify possible priority projects likely to be funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Leo Clark motioned to approve the RIVER grant in the amount of \$30,000. Riki French seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Lamoille FiberNet BEAD Contract

The LFCUD has received a grant for Broadband deployment. LCPC will provide stakeholder outreach, documentation, and grant writing support.

Jeff Tilton motioned to approve the Lamoille FiberNet BEAD Contract in the amount of \$33,920. Sam Lotto seconded. Motion carried.

Report on Audit & Single Audit

Leo Clark reported that the auditor has received all needed information and the draft audit and draft single audit are now completed. The audit will be dated March 26, 2024 and will be received after minor formatting updates. A final data collection form will be submitted by the auditor. There were no findings in the audit.

Approval of Personnel Policy

The Board has seen this document before. In order to comply with new statutory requirements, the discrimination and harassment section of our Personnel Policy needed to be updated. Any feedback from Directors will be incorporated into a future revision.

Marina Meerberg motioned to accept the revised Personnel Policy. Sam Lotto seconded. Motion carried.

Board Letter of Support for Smuggs' Project

This letter will be submitted to Senator Sanders for consideration of a Congressionally Directed Spending award in the amount of \$800,000 for the final portion of the recent project in Smugglers' Notch. The letter as presented has no dollar amount. Seth Jensen is working on the numbers and a final amount will be inserted before the letter is sent. Tasha Wallis told the Board that the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has added this project to their Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Duncan Hastings motioned to approve the letter pending the insertion of the requested amount. Jeff Tilton seconded. Motion Carried.

Executive Director's Report

- Last Tuesday LCPC hosted county legislators to discuss flooding questions. We hope to take them on a tour of the projects LCPC has been involved in to date.
- On Thursday a meeting of municipal stakeholders was held to discuss cooperation between towns related to flooding.
- The Marvin Awards and County Director requests will be going out soon. Board members should be considering nominations for the awards.

Community Updates

Stowe – Town meeting had the best turnout to date. Voting on the budget by Australian Ballot was approved.

Morristown – The new Selectboard and Town Manager are settling in.

Hyde Park Village – The old gas station in the Village is being converted into Village Offices.

Johnson Village – The merger of the Town and Village was voted down. LCPC will be conducting a scoping study on a dangerous curve on the western edge of the Village. Saturday they will be holding an egg hunt.

Cambridge – Recent flooding has made the Selectboard rethink the emphasis in the Town Plan to build in Village centers.

Wolcott – The school budget passed. The Forest Committee is moving along.

Elmore – The Associated Press ran a story on Elmore Town Meeting.

Waterville – Richard Westman and Lucy Boyden gave a plaque to the retiring Town Clerk who has served for over 30 years.

Belvidere – The Elementary school budget failed.

Caleb Magoon – He has joined the 30 by 30 initiative which has the objective of having 30% of Vermont land conserved by 2030.

Meeting Adjourned

Leo Clark motioned to adjourn. Sam Lotto seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.