

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

**LCPC Board Members present**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Belvidere</b>	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Morristown</b>	Dan McLaughlin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Cambridge Town</b>	Dick Goff		<b>Morrisville</b>	Vacant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Cambridge Town</b>	Sam Lotto <i>(Video)</i>		<b>Stowe</b>	Marina Meerburg
	<b>Cambridge Village</b>	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stowe</b>	Brian Leven <i>(Video)</i>
	<b>Eden</b>	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Waterville</b>	Jeffrey Tilton <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Elmore</b>	Trevor Braun <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Wolcott</b>	Maxfield English <i>(Video)</i>
	<b>Hyde Park Town</b>	Greg Paus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>County Director</b>	Leo Clark <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Hyde Park Town</b>	Richard Pearson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>County Director</b>	Liz Courtney <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Hyde Park Village</b>	Riki French	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>County Director</b>	Caleb Magoon
	<b>Jeffersonville</b>	Vacant		<b>County Director</b>	Linda Martin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Johnson Town</b>	Duncan Hastings		<b>County Director</b>	Roger Murphy
	<b>Johnson Village</b>	GiGi Beach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ex Officio</b>	Pat Ripley <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Morristown</b>	Judy Bickford			

**Lamoille County Planning Commission Staff:** Tasha Wallis, Seth Jensen, Meghan Rodier, Georgeana Little

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

Caleb informed the committee that this meeting was being recorded.

**Changes to the Agenda and Public Comment**

There were no changes to the agenda and no public comment

**Public Hearing – Regional Plan Enhanced Energy Plan Amendment**

*Dan McLaughlin motioned to enter the Public Hearing. Riki French seconded. Motion carried.*

Meghan Rodier explained that the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) was amending their Enhanced Energy section of the Regional Plan to conform with Act 74 standards. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing on this section and little has changed since the previous hearing. She briefly outlined the changes and invited comments. The Public Service Department will need to hold Public Hearings on this plan as well so the final approval is expected this fall.

*Dick Goff motioned to exit the Public Hearing. Duncan Hastings seconded. Motion carried.*

### **Vote on Accepting Regional Plan Enhanced Energy Plan Amendment**

*Dan McLaughlin motioned to accept the Regional Plan Enhanced Energy Plan Amendment as presented. July Bickford seconded. A roll call of municipal directors - 12 Ayes and 0 Nays. Motion carried.*

### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Maxfield English presented the slate as approved by the Nominating Committee:

Chair, Caleb Magoon

Vice Chair, Brian Leven

Treasurer, Linda Martin

Secretary, Judy Bickford

Leo Clark, outgoing Treasurer, and Dick Goff, outgoing Secretary were thanked for their years of service in those positions.

### **Election of Officers**

*Duncan Hastings motioned to accept the slate as presented by the Nominating Committee. Dick Goff seconded. Motion carried.*

### **Changes to Open Meeting Law**

New rules became effective July 1, 2024. Committees are designated as non-advisory or advisory. Advisory committees do not have direct control of operations of the organization but act only in an advisory nature. Non-advisory committees are those that make decisions for the organization. LCPC's non-advisory committees are the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. All other committees are advisory. Non-advisory committees must have all meetings recorded and available to the public for 30 days following approval of the minutes of the meeting. Brian Leven proposed that LCPC make the recordings available within 5 days of the meeting. All committees are not required to be hybrid but it is LCPC's practice to hold all meetings as hybrid meetings to make them most available to the public.

It was suggested that the Board should make the advisory/non-advisory committees for the LCPC explicit.

*Duncan Hastings motioned to accept the definitions of advisory/non-advisory committees as outlined in the Board memo and presented here. Judy Bickford seconded. Motion carried.*

### **Approval of June 11, 2024 Minutes**

*Duncan Hastings motioned to accept the June 11, 2024 minutes. Dick Goff seconded. Motion carried with two abstentions.*

### **PPR Report**

Dick Goff reported that this project is a replacement tower in Morristown. The Tower will be approximately 10 feet taller than the current tower but placed approximately 10 feet lower at the base, making no change in the overall height. The Project and Plan Review Committee have requested that the engineers present actual elevation data *in lieu* of the projected data available in their request.

*Dick Goff motioned that the staff be directed to write a letter to the Public Utilities Commission, with copies to the applicant and the Town, indicating that the project was in conformance with the Regional Plan with the understanding that Drawings C1.1 and C2 will be updated to show actual elevations showing that the top of the new tower will not be taller than the existing tower and reserving the right to revisit the issue if the project changes. Rich Pearson seconded. Motion carried.*

### **Approval of Grants**

#### **EDA Disaster supplemental Planning Grant to the Northern Vermont Economic Development District (NVEDD)**

Seth Jensen explained that this project will result in a Northern Vermont Economic Development District-wide Recovery and Resiliency Plan, with specific focus on communities along the Main Stem of the Lamoille River. The Plan will include recommendations for the District. The Recovery and Resiliency Plan will contain specific recommendations for actions and next steps and be structured so that key elements can be incorporated into the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Regional Plans, and municipal plans. The Plan will also be informed by science-based comprehensive vulnerability assessment. This assessment will utilize and improve LCPC's existing Hydrologic Model of the Lamoille Main Stem and key tributaries to assess flood vulnerability. The total grant, to be administered by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, is for \$518,622. LCPC's share is \$162,242.

*Leo Clark motioned to accept the EDA Disaster Supplemental Planning Grant in the amount of \$162,242. Riki French seconded. Motion carried.*

#### **Agency of Commerce and Community Development Grant (ACCD)**

This is our annual grant from the state. Funding provided through this grant supports municipal and regional planning activities. For the third year in a row, the base funding for the RPCs has been significantly increased. The goal is to help build the foundation for orderly growth and

revitalize historic village centers/downtowns while preserving the rural countryside. The FY 25 ACCD budget includes Housing Navigator funding to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to municipalities to navigate new requirements under Act 47, The Homes Act. The total includes our base appropriation, an additional amount approved by the legislature, and a rollover of Housing Navigator funds. The total grant is for \$546,199.31.

*Duncan Hastings motioned to accept the ACCD funding in the amount of \$546,199.31. Leo Clark seconded. Motion carried.*

## **H687**

This is a extensive act passed by the legislature. There are a lot of unknowns associated with this act. It will change the way we work considerably. Seth Jensen has been reviewing the 177 page act and explained the basics included in H687. The Regional Plan will now need to be reviewed and approved by a Land Use Resource Board which has not yet been appointed. There are also changes to what needs to be included in regional plans. Seth went over various parts of the Act but cautioned that nothing is yet final. He will keep the Board informed of the evolving rules and regulations.

## **Financial Procedures Update**

Leo Clark explained that this is just an update to keep the procedures current. He went through the changes made in this version, which were all housekeeping, with no policy changes.

## **Considerations for Inclusive Town Planning**

Liz Courtney went over the changes to this document since the Board had last reviewed it. Examples have been added and the content slightly rearranged. It is basically the same document that the Board has seen before.

The idea is that this document will be presented to town planning commissions by staff as they help with plan updates. This way the document will be seen in context.

## **Proposed Name Change for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee (JEDI)**

Liz Courtney explained that the JEDI Committee felt the terms Diversity and Inclusion have become divisive in the larger community. She is requesting the Board approve a name change to the Belonging and Inclusion Committee.

*Liz Courtney motioned to change the name of the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee to the Welcoming and Inclusion Committee. Carol Caldwell-Edmonds seconded. A voice vote elicited a negative vote so a roll call was necessary. The roll call was 14 Ayes, and 1 Nay. Motion carried.*

## **Committee Signups**

The list of current committee assignments will be sent to all Board members. They should indicate which committees they wish to serve on and return the list expeditiously. Caleb will announce assignments before the next meeting.

### **Executive Director's Report**

- She traveled yesterday with FEMA personnel to view properties damaged in the last storm.
- Susan Sinnott is no longer employed at LCPC. Nicole Sancibrian will be working with us.
- We have hired 2 interns: Mark Mastrangelo started on Monday and Conrad Becker will begin on August 6<sup>th</sup>. Both positions run through October. Depending on conditions, their tenure could be extended through the end of the fiscal year.
- We have a contract with Ron Rodjenski for help with municipal projects. The contract runs until June 2025.
- Morristown Planning Council has approved changes to the Town Plan and the amendment will be reviewed by the Town Selectboard and Village Trustees and hopefully sent to LCPC sometime in the fall.
- This is an incredibly busy time for everyone at LCPC.

### **Community Updates**

Morristown – Dan McLaughlin was able to meet with the new Morristown Town Manager.

Stowe – The Stowe Jazz Festival runs from August 2-4 this year.

Belvidere – There was a record turnout for this year's Bluegrass Festival.

Wolcott – After the Wastewater project passed 2 town votes there is now a revote scheduled for early September.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

*Judy Bickford motioned to adjourn. Dick Goff seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.*