

Lamoille County Planning Commission Board of Directors – Meeting Minutes  
 October 22, 2024

**LCPC Board Members present**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Belvidere</b>	Carol Caldwell-Edmonds <i>(Video)</i>		<b>Morristown</b>	Dan McLaughlin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Cambridge Town</b>	Dick Goff		<b>Morrisville</b>	Vacant
	<b>Cambridge Town</b>	Sam Lotto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stowe</b>	Marina Meerburg
	<b>Cambridge Village</b>	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Stowe</b>	Brian Leven
	<b>Eden</b>	Vacant		<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>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Hyde Park Town</b>	Greg Paus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>County Director</b>	Leo Clark
<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		<b>County Director</b>	Caleb Magoon
	<b>Jeffersonville</b>	Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>County Director</b>	Linda Martin <i>(Video)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Johnson Town</b>	Duncan Hastings <i>(Video)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>County Director</b>	Roger Murphy <i>(Video)</i>
	<b>Johnson Village</b>	Vacant	<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, Tori Hellwig, Meghan Rodier, Marc Mastrangelo *(Video)*, Georgeana Little

*Brian Leven called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.*

Brian reminded the Board that the Morristown Town Plan has been amended to reflect the concerns of the Board and will be presented at next month’s meeting for approval. Members should make an effort to be present.

**Changes to the Agenda and Public Comment**

There were no changes to the agenda and no public comment

### **Approval of September 24, 2024 Minutes**

*Leo Clark motioned to accept the September 24, 2024 minutes. Greg Paus seconded. Motion carried with one abstention.*

### **PPR Report**

There was no PPR report.

### **Discussion of Board's Role in Act 250**

Duncan Hastings brought up this topic for discussion as the new Chair of the Planning and Project Review Committee (PPR). Currently, the LCPC only comments on criterion 10 of Act 250, whether or not the project conforms to the regional plan. He would like to discuss whether the LCPC should comment on other criteria of the Act. The LCPC is automatically a statutory party to all Act 250 applications but has not chosen, in the past, to comment on all criteria in order to avoid conflicts with municipalities.

There is a current Act 250 application for a large industrial park in Morristown, which will trigger SRI (Substantial Regional Impact) status, giving more weight to the regional plan. Several questions were raised: Has the project been approved by the town? How involved would we be in the process? Why would we want to change our process? Is there cost in time and money?

The consensus was to send this question back to the PPR Committee for review and eventual suggestions on how to move forward. It was the consensus of the Board that we cannot change the process after the application has been submitted for review, so whatever the eventual decision, it will not affect the current MSI application.

### **Municipal Vulnerability Indicators Tool Training**

Tori Hellwig and Meghan Rodier gave a training on the new tool developed by the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for helping communities deal with a changing environment.

Tori gave a brief overview of the tool and Meghan followed with some specific examples of how the tool can be used. Finally, Tori gave a live demonstration of the tool.

Board members asked how often the data on which the tool relied would be updated and were told the plan was to update the data annually. It was suggested that sharing this tool with the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) should be considered.

### **FY25 Budget Update**

Linda Martin explained that the Board receives quarterly updates on the budget, as revenues and expenditures are always in flux. This budget is approximately \$230,000 more than the approved FY25 budget, primarily due to new money being received for the Smugglers' Notch project. This revenue increase is connected to the additional expenditure of funds in Consultants. The increase in Professional Services reflects the continued services of Nicole Sancibrian as our accountant. Leo Clark noted that payroll went down while fringe benefits

went up, which is unexpected. Tasha Wallis reported that she removed Susan Sinnott from the payroll category but apparently did not remove her fringe. This will be corrected before the vote on the budget in November.

### **Regional Government Update**

Tasha reminded the Board that she had sent out material about this idea which is being discussed at the state level. Because Vermont does not have County government, some federal funds are at stake. The State is considering creating Councils of Governments which would act similarly to county governments. This subject will be discussed further as the idea develops.

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

- Letters to the Towns have been sent outlining the LCPC's work with each town and requesting FY26 appropriations.
- There is a lot of work to do by staff related to the new land use regulations which they have not yet been able to concentrate on, as flood related projects are still a primary concern.
- There will be a training for the Board in 2025 on the new land use regulations

### **Community Updates**

Morristown – Rocktoberfest was a success again this year.

Stowe – We survived foliage season but traffic is still a problem in town. The Housing Task Force is working hard. Electric Chargers have been moved and installed at Peace Park.

Wolcott – The Wolcott Community Forest will be welcoming hikers in the spring. The town has acquired a 9 acre parcel leading to Bear Swamp which they hope to conserve. There is a walk to the site this Saturday.

Belvidere – Driving on Route 109 is enjoyable for the first time in many years.

Elmore – There has been concern in the town about stormwater runoff mitigation being conducted at Elmore's "Beauty Spot." The project has been temporarily halted.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

*Greg Paus motioned to adjourn. Judy Bickford seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.*