

## Regional Plan and Policy Committee

January 23, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Attendance: E. Nance, L. Douglas, P. Zamore, Y. Dandurand

Staff : C. Dimitruk, M. Valenta

Meeting is called to order at 6:01 p.m.

### 1. Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda

### 2. Review of Draft Sections: Land Use, Disaster Resiliency, Energy

#### Land Use

P. Zamore wants it to be noted that the Grand Isle soils tend to be very clay heavy which makes wastewater systems difficult to develop. L. Douglas also notes that the community strength and resilience created by village centers should be discussed more vs. the economic benefits. E. Nance notes that ADUs should be mentioned in this section as a way to preserve current land use patterns. C. Dimitruk also notes that on farm housing for farm workers is another important strategy. L. Douglas also notes that supporting diversity, including racial diversity, in farming should be mentioned. E. Nance asks about supporting LGBTQ farmers, and C. Dimitruk notes that wording can be changed to supporting all diversity. P. Zamore suggests a note that the map of proposed land use can be viewed in more detail online. L. Douglas notes the importance of forest corridors and wants to explore planning solutions for protecting that.

#### Disaster Resiliency

P. Zamore asks about adding a discussion of proactive change to VT's leading industries instead of simply responding to the changing climate and resulting disasters. L. Douglas notes that the measures to protect against heat islands should be noted, especially for more urban areas like Saint Albans City. L. Douglas also notes that pandemics are on the rise and the risk that animal diseases can pose to humans should be considered. Y. Dandurand asks about shared trainings/equipment/volunteers

between municipal agencies like fire departments. C. Dimitruk does note the strong mutual aid agreements we have with neighboring counties.

## Energy

E. Nance asks about including data about how we are doing compared to our goals. M. Valenta notes we should be getting more data in April and this should give us some insight. L. Douglas asks about including requirements around producing electricity on new developments, as well as a discussion of district heating. M. Valenta notes that both of these topics are specific and complex. Y. Dandurand notes the benefits of solar. M. Valenta notes that while these are all important parts of the climate solution, supporting incentives covers all of that and allows us to not go into every technology and their benefits or negatives in the plan. C. Dimitruk mentions that panel upgrades as well as other remediation necessary in old housing stock is extremely costly and should be mentioned.

### 3. Schedule Update

C. Dimitruk presents new regional plan schedule, which will be sent out to all members. Feb 13, March 13, April 10 will be the upcoming meeting dates.

### 4. Commissioner and Staff Announcements

No announcements. Meeting adjourned at 7:10.