

1 NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting  
2 January 25, 2023  
3 7:00PM  
4 Virtual Meeting  
5

6 The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held using the Zoom platform.  
7

8 **Attendance**

9 Commissioners: *See attached.* A quorum was present to conduct business.

10 Staff: C. Dimitruk, B. Remmers, B. Lampke, K. Grenier, D. Peirce, D. Devlin, P. Jenkins  
11

12 Chair B. Irwin welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.  
13

14 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

15 None.  
16

17 **Welcome, Introductions, Opening remarks**

18 Chair B. Irwin welcomed everyone to the NRPC's January board meeting. Participants briefly  
19 introduced themselves.  
20

21 **Opportunity for Public Comment**

22 No members of the public offered comments.  
23

24 **Minutes from the November meeting**

25 *E. Vance motioned to approve November minutes as presented. Y. Dandurand seconded. The motion*  
26 *carried with abstentions.*  
27

28 **Commission Reports**  
29

30 **Finance/Operations** - B. Irwin and C. Dimitruk both thanked Harold Garrett for his many years of  
31 service as board treasurer. H. Garrett asks for clarifications on a couple of financial matters,  
32 especially travel expenses being over budget. C. Dimitruk explained that travel and meetings are  
33 over budget because more meetings have returned to in-person. The finance committee will make  
34 any needed mid-year budget adjustments next month to address this once a new treasurer is  
35 elected.

36 **Personnel** – L. Ruple shared that the personnel committee held interviews for transportation  
37 planner at the beginning of January and NRPC hired Kyle Grenier for the position.  
38

39 **Executive Committee** –L. Douglas noted that the committee met and its items will be addressed  
40 later in the agenda.  
41

42 **Project Review Committee** –B. Buermann shared update about a VELCO project replacing a diesel  
43 generator with battery storage system. With more of these battery systems coming on-line, the

1 committee is interested in reviewing safety protocols and ensuring local fire departments are  
2 trained to respond in case there is a fire.

3  
4 **Transportation Advisory Committee** – H. Garrett noted that the TAC is very happy to welcome Kyle  
5 Grenier as the new NRPC transportation planner. TAC met on January 12 and discussed the regional  
6 plan charter goals and policies. TAC also agreed to write a letter of support to VTrans for  
7 substituting bridge #20 with bridge #11 as a project in the Capital Program.

8  
9 **Energy and Climate** –A. Voegele reported the committee met to review updates to several key  
10 points in the energy and climate policy.

11  
12 **Brownfields Committee** – E. Nance reported on the status of the Riviera Hotel in Swanton. There  
13 was a pre-bid walk-through for asbestos abatement removal with demolition anticipated for April  
14 or May.

15  
16 **Regional Plan and Policy Committee** – E. Nance shared that the committee met and went through  
17 several sections of the plan. The committee is on target to present the regional plan to the Board in  
18 July.

19  
20 **Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC)** – A. Voegele stated that VEPC is meeting tomorrow  
21 and there are two items on the agenda. The first is the infrastructure application from the town of  
22 Highgate. The second item is from the Vermont Economic Growth Incentive (VEGI) regarding the  
23 Plumose application.

24  
25 **Green Mountain Transit** – B. Buermann shared GMT has a new general manager. C. Dimitruk  
26 added that she and B. Buermann will be meeting with GMT staff discuss a micro-transit feasibility  
27 study for the St. Albans area.

28  
29 **Healthy Roots Advisory Committee** – L. Douglas shared HRC is doing great work and they will  
30 release their annual 2022 report soon.

31  
32 **Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation** – C. Dimitruk reported that at its last meeting, the  
33 executive committee adopted a financial procedures process that outlines how we will conduct and  
34 document transfers of funds between the foundation and NRPC. This was an important step  
35 towards enabling the foundation to accept funds that will support NRPC's programs.

36  
37 **Staff** –

38 B. Remmers expanded on the TAC update the bridge project substitution in Sheldon. NRPC and TAC  
39 worked with VTrans to substitute a lower priority bridge replacement/rehabilitation project (B20)  
40 to a higher priority potential bridge project (B11) in Sheldon. The Town of Sheldon is in support of  
41 this swap and VTrans will work with the legislature on this potential project substitution.

42 C. Dimitruk added details on the regional plan timeline. In order to have the final draft regional  
43 plan ready for adoption at the July meeting, the Board will see the first full draft of the plan in April.  
44 This will give Commissioners time to review the plan informally before the formal hearing process.

1 C. Dimitruk also noted that there are several vacancies on the Board and she encouraged  
2 Commissioners to think about people in their communities who might be interested candidates.  
3

4 For a brief legislative update, C. Dimitruk shared that the governor signed an extension to the  
5 pandemic era open meeting law bill which enables public bodies to have fully virtual meetings. The  
6 governor's budget adjustment act proposal includes \$3 million dollars to help under-resourced  
7 rural communities with added capacity to access federal funds. She noted that the index used to  
8 identify high needs rural communities needs adjustments. There is also additional money for  
9 Brownfields in the budget adjustment act. Some of this would pass through to regional planning  
10 commissions, which would enable NRPC to access additional assessment funds to keep several  
11 projects going. There are some policy bills and housing bills that relate to regional planning  
12 commissions and municipalities that she is paying close attention to. Finally, the governor's  
13 proposed budget has a 3% increase for regional planning commissions and an increase for the  
14 municipal planning grant program.  
15

16 S. Hadd mentioned a bill that would prohibit zoning administrators from serving on regional  
17 planning commission boards and wonders where that came from. C. Dimitruk will follow up on that  
18 issue. C. Sawyer raised questions about the housing omnibus bill being discussed in the Senate,  
19 stating that there are some good things in the draft bill, but there are provisions that could  
20 preempt local regulation and authority.  
21

#### 22 **Code of Conduct.**

23 The Committee engaged in a discussion around the draft code of conduct. A key recommendation  
24 was asking the NRPC attorney to help clarify parameters of official capacity so as not to infringe on  
25 members' free speech. Another suggestion was to create a four-member committee to address  
26 code of conduct violations rather than the executive committee. C. Dimitruk will bring these  
27 questions to the attorney and then work with the executive committee on a revised draft. The  
28 board may decide to adopt the code at the next meeting or propose additional edits.  
29

#### 30 **Treasurer Position nomination and vote (action item).**

31 B. Irwin thanked H. Garrett for his 15 years of service as board treasurer. B. Irwin opened the floor  
32 to nominations.  
33

34 *A. Voegele nominated K Waite for treasurer. H. Garrett seconded. A. Voegele motioned to close*  
35 *nominations. B. Buermann seconded. The motion carried.*  
36

#### 37 **Commissioner Announcements.**

38 E. Nance announced she is stepping down from the board and the board thanked her for her  
39 service. S. Hadd announced that Tim Germaine, the Fairfax highway supervisor, will be retiring in  
40 April. She noted he is a valued representative on the TAC and has done great work in the town.  
41

#### 42 **Adjourn**

43 A.Voegele moved to adjourn. B. Morris seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned 8:10 PM.  
44

**FY23 NPRC Board of Commissioners- Meeting Attendance**

Municipality	Board Member	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
		7/27/22	No Meeting	9/28/22	10/26/22	11/30/22	No Meeting	1/25/23					
Frkln Cty Youth	Ryan Thatcher	X			X	X		E					
GI Cty Youth	Vacant												
Alburg Town	Alton Bruso												
Alburg Town	Terry Tatro												
Alburg Village	Terry Tatro												
Alburg Village	Vacant												
Bakersfield	Bill Irwin	X			X	X		X					
Bakersfield	Linda McCall	E			X	E		E					
Berkshire	Vincent Hickey												
Berkshire	Claude Charron												
Enosburg Falls	Leonard Charron												
Enosburg Falls	Vacant												
Enosburgh Town	Jesse Woods												
Enosburgh Town	Jessica Eagle												
Fairfax	Colleen Steen-through 8/1/22, Amber Sotter- start 10/17/22	X			X	X							
Fairfax	Sarah Hadd	X			X	X		X					
Fairfield	Doug Grant	X			X	X		X					
Fairfield	Brian Dubie				X	X		X					
Fletcher	Lynn Douglas	X			X	X		X					
Fletcher	Lori Ruple	X			X	X							
Franklin	Yvon Dandurand	X			X	X		X					
Franklin	Wesley Kempton												
Georgia	Scott St. Onge												
Georgia	Kirk Waite	X				X							
Grand Isle	Barclay Morris	X				X		X					
Grand Isle	Howard Demars				X			X					
Highgate	Vacant												
Highgate	Vacant (Richard Noel through 10/22)	X											
Isle La Motte	Sylvia Jensen	X											
Isle La Motte	Mary-Catherine Graziano					X							
Montgomery	Charlie Hancock												
Montgomery	Vacant												
North Hero	Andy Alling	X			X	X		X					
North Hero	Vacant												
Richford	Rowena Brown	X				X		X					
Richford	Vacant												
Sheldon	Vacant												
Sheldon	Jeff Kane												
South Hero	Peter Zamore	X				X		X					
South Hero	Bob Buermann	X			X	X		X					
St. Albans City	David Glidden	x						X					
St. Albans City	Matt Preedom through 8/1/22, Chip Sawyer - start 1/1/23	X						X					
St. Albans Town	Marietta Scholten				X	X		X					
St. Albans Town	Albin Voegelé					X		X					
Swanton Town	Harold Garrett			E	X			X					
Swanton Town	vacant												
Swanton Village	Elisabeth Nance	X			X	X		X					
Swanton Village	Neal Speer					X							
# MUNICIPALITIES		<b>14</b>			<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>13</b>					

QUORUM = 12

E= Excused