



Regional Plan and Policy Committee

October 12, 2023

6:00 p.m., Virtual Meeting

Attendance: Catherine Dimitruk, Peter Zamore, Chip Sawyer, Yvon Dandurand

1. Additions to the Agenda

None.

2. Public Comment

There was not public comment, no members of the public in attendance.

3. Overview of Future Land Use Study and Impact on NRPC Regional Plan

Catherine provided an overview of the future land-use study and the impact on the northwest regional plan. She described the proposed future land-use districts and how they related to the northwest regional plan. She also talked about how the future land-use study related to parallel efforts in act 250 and the state designation program. Commissioners discussed the legislative intent behind this study request. Yvon asked how this could impact those properties that are in current use program. Catherine did not think that this would have an impact one way or another.

Committee members continue to talk about the proposed future land-use study, including the importance of tying this work to the future housing needs and housing targets. Peter noted that doing outreach to understand how this impacts growth and development in local communities will be very important. These types of discussions were an issue in the last South Hero town plan update, so extensive public outreach will be really important. Peter further added that it will be very important to show that this type of development is the best way for Vermont to be vibrant and healthy and keep young people and employment in the State. Peter also noted that the compact development is the least costly way to get new growth.

Chip gave an overview of his work on the act 250 study committee and the designation study and how this effort could relate to those projects. Chip also noted the act 250 delegation study, which is the fourth study happening at the same time. Yvon described a new law in NY related to bio-fuel, and the broad consequences for rural areas. He stressed that the impacts of new laws must be understood.

Peter asked about the committee's role and the timeline for moving forward. The committee discussed meeting again on November 9 or the 16th to review a draft report and provide recommended comments to the board of commissioners for their consideration. Committee members also stressed that the report should note that it will take time to implement something like this, and moving too quickly could be detrimental.

4. Commissioner and Staff Announcements
There were no additional announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.