

1 **NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting**
2 **September 27, 2023**
3 **Remote Meeting**
4 **DRAFT**

5 **Attendance:**

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

7 Staff: Catherine Dimitruk, Greta Brunswick, Maddie Yandow, Barry Lampke, Orla Duffy, Sara
8 Gratz

9
10 Chair W. Irwin welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

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12 **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None.

13
14 **Welcome, introductions, opening remarks.**

15 W. Irwin welcomed those attending. Participants briefly introduced themselves.

16
17 **Opportunity for Public Comment:** No members of the public offered comments.

18
19 **Minutes of the April Meeting**

20 Yvon Dandurand moved to approve the July minutes as written; Bob Buermann seconded.

21 Friendly amendment to the motion to edit the date of the minutes.

22 Motion carried.

23
24 **Speaker: Amy Carmola, United Way of Northwest Vermont**

25 Amy Carmola introduced herself as the Chief Impact Officer of United Way of Northwest
26 Vermont. She has been with organization for 20 years. She provided an overview of UWNVT's
27 programs, advocacy, education, funding, and collaborations. She described Working Bridges and
28 its partnership with employers to help their employees be successful at work and life. She also
29 described a collaboration with the Prevention Network, building connections between groups
30 working on substance misuse. Discussion and questions included how to track success and data
31 indicators, allocating work and grants across the three counties, and collaboration with NRPC.

32
33 **Finance/Operations** – The committee will meet in 6-8 weeks. All field work for the audit was
34 completed, and we should be getting draft audit sometime soon. There were brief questions on
35 the details of the financial report.

36
37 **Executive Committee** – W. Irwin reported that the committee met in August and reviewed a
38 draft new logo.

39
40 **Project Review** – B. Buermann reported that the committee met and reviewed two projects:
41 Westview condo unit in St. Albans Town and Alburgh Family Clubhouse. Alburgh Family
42 Clubhouse is a substantial regional impact for the number of employees, which is positive. B.

43 Buermann made a motion to ratify the Project Review Committee report. M. Scholten
44 seconded. Motion carried.

45
46 **Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)** – H. Garrett reported that the TAC met in September.
47 with Jen Yandow (GMP) and Marlena Valenta as speakers about electric vehicles and how they
48 can benefit us in the future. He noted he came away with whole new outlook on electric
49 vehicles.

50
51 **Energy and Climate Committee** – P. Zamore was unable to attend the meeting. W. Irwin noted
52 it was a fantastic meeting. Data helped to see data over time to help see where we are with
53 energy production and use.

54
55 **Economic Progress Council.** Brian Dubie reported that there was no meeting scheduled for the
56 next few months. W. Irwin expressed a thank you to Brian for serving; he is stepping down in
57 favor of new member joining to represent Fairfield.

58
59 **Green Mountain Transit (GMT)**- B. Buermann noted that an adjustment in wages for urban
60 drivers was made to improve recruitment; looking to see similar impacts for rural drivers.

61
62 **Healthy Roots** – M. Scholten reported a discussion of the 2024 budget. The Sheldon storage
63 space coming along nicely. It is a partnership with CVOEO, in space donated by the Abbey
64 Group.

65
66 **Office-** C. Dimitruk referred Commissioners to the staff reports in the Board packet. Maddie
67 gave update on CWSP funding for project development for private road projects in 3 towns in
68 Grand Isle County: Grand Isle, North Hero and Isle La Motte.

69
70 **Code of Conduct meeting** – C. Dimitruk reported that the committee will meet to establish
71 protocols in the event that it was ever implemented.

72
73 **Plan Approvals, Swanton, South Hero and Highgate:**

74 Sarah Hadd reported that the committee had two hearings for public comment – one on
75 Monday and Wednesday. They reviewed 3 plans, Highgate, Swanton and South Hero. She noted
76 they were all different and summarized the committee comments on the plans.

77
78 S. Hadd moved that NRPC grant regional approval of the municipal plan, confirmation of
79 planning process and determination of energy compliance for Highgate and South Hero. Y.
80 Dandurand seconded. Motion carried.

81
82 S. Hadd moved that NRPC grant regional approval of the municipal plan and confirmation of
83 planning process for the Town and Village of Swanton. B. Buermann seconded. Motion carried.

84

85 **Commissioner Announcements:**

86 C. Dimitruk noted that K. Grenier has been coordinating improvements of the building including
87 electrical lighting improvements and a temporary plan to address ice and snow build up on the
88 ramp.

89

90 **Adjourn**

91 M. Scholten moved to adjourn. A. Alling seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned
92 at 8:23 pm.