

1 **NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
2 **March 27, 2024**  
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: Catherine Dimitruk, Shaun Coleman, Sara Gratz, Christine Porcaro, Danielle Turin  
11

12 Chair W. Irwin welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.  
13

14 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

15 Chair W. Irwin inquired about any required adjustments to the meeting agenda. No changes were  
16 suggested by the board members.  
17

18 **Welcome, Introductions, Opening remarks**

19 Chair W. Irwin welcomed everyone to the NRPC's March board meeting. Participants briefly introduced  
20 themselves.  
21

22 **Opportunity for Public Comment**

23 No members of the public offered comments.  
24

25 **Minutes from the November meeting**

26 Y. Dandurand moved to approve the January and February Board of Commissioners meeting minutes.

27 A. Alling seconded. Motion carried.  
28

29 **Commission Reports**  
30

31 **Finance/Operations** – K. Waite shared that the Finance Committee did not meet, and noted the staff and  
32 committee report needed to be updated for March. He reported that the Committee is looking for a new  
33 member. C. Dimitruk confirmed that Doug Grant had to step down from the Board. W. Irwin and members  
34 of the Commission expressed appreciation for Doug's contribution to NRPC.  
35

36 **Personnel** – L. Ruple reported the committee did not meet in March and welcomed our newest employee,  
37 Danielle Turin.  
38

39 **Executive Committee** –W. Irwin reported the committee did not meet.  
40

41 **Project Review Committee** –Committee Chair B. Buermann reported that the committee met and reviewed  
42 a solar project in Georgia. The Committee found the project was a substantial regional impact and that the  
43 project conformed to the regional plan. Discussion centered around screening, and landscaping. The project  
44 will have some additional screening, pollinators, and sheep used for vegetation control. H. Demars moved to  
45 accept the recommendation of the Project Review Committee. B. Buermann seconded. Motion carried.

1  
2 **Transportation Advisory Committee** – It was reported that the TAC met in March and discussion focused  
3 around the eclipse with information provided by Shaun Coleman. Two new members have joined the TAC.  
4

5 **Energy and Climate** – W. Irwin reported that the committee met and reviewed two key sections of the draft  
6 energy plan.  
7

8 **Brownfields Committee** –C. Sawyer reported that the committee met and discussed ongoing projects. C.  
9 Dimitru noted that since the committee met NRPC has received interest in an RLF application from a  
10 property owner in Chittenden County.  
11

12 **Regional Plan and Policy Committee** – P. Zamore indicated that the committee did not meet but will be  
13 awaiting assignments.  
14

15 **Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC)** – C. Dimitruk reported that there were no projects from our  
16 region on the most recent VEPC agenda. NRPC needs a new representative for this committee due to Doug  
17 Grant’s resignation. Interested Commissioners are asked to contact her.  
18

19 **Green Mountain Transit** – B. Buermann reported on the fare resumption in Chittenden County.  
20

21 **Healthy Roots Advisory Committee** – M. Scholten noted that the advisory committee has a meeting coming  
22 up.  
23

24 **Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation** – K. Waite reported that the Foundation did not meet.  
25

#### 26 **Staff Announcements**

27 S. Coleman reminded communities that updated Local Emergency Operations Plans are due May 1<sup>st</sup> and  
28 NRPC is available to assist. C. Porcaro reported on ongoing discussions with CVOEO about a potential move  
29 of HRC to CVOEO. She noted that the advisory committee will be discussing this and C. Dimitruk noted that  
30 the Executive Committee had been briefed. In response to questions, C. Porcaro reported that HRC has an  
31 existing strong partnership with CVOEO and that they have committed to maintaining programming and the  
32 HRC identity. More discussion will be held at future Board meetings. C. Dimitruk highlighted all of the spring  
33 training opportunities included in the packet and added that a Selectboard Training institute will be held  
34 with VLCT on May 14<sup>th</sup>, information should go out soon. She highlighted legislative activity on the Open  
35 Meeting Law, Municipal Ethics and Act 250.  
36

#### 37 **April 8<sup>th</sup> Total Solar Eclipse**

38 S. Coleman provided an overview of eclipse preparations. The path of totality passes through  
39 northwestern Vermont at approximately 3:28 p.m. RPC staff have been attending municipal public  
40 safety meetings regarding the April 8 eclipse. Many municipalities and local organizations have been  
41 planning various events for the event and are engaged in public safety planning due to increased traffic  
42 and potential safety impacts caused by people traveling to experience the solar eclipse. Local public  
43 safety and traffic plans have been developed. Franklin County and Grand Isle County Mutual Aid  
44 Organizations have held operational meetings regarding staging resources throughout each county in  
45 anticipation of increased traffic along state and local roads and to accommodate for various eclipse  
46 events being held. Area hotels and B&Bs are booked.  
47

1 With the ice out on Lake Champlain early this year, there is an expectation of many boaters on the lake  
2 to watch the eclipse. Fire departments will have marine units staged along the lake accordingly and  
3 chiefs had been in contact with US Coast Guard. US Customs and Border protection will be fully  
4 staffed. VSP station commander for St. Albans will be monitoring Interstate 89 and State  
5 Highways. The state Emergency Operations Center will be fully activated.

6  
7 Franklin County Sheriff's Office will have a command post at Northwest Medical Center and deputies  
8 will be monitoring local roads to ensure traffic flow. Many fire, rescue and local law enforcement  
9 offices will be fully staffed during the day. For fire and rescue this will help avoid delays for volunteers  
10 trying to arrive at stations. Some fire departments will be having family events for their members.

11  
12 Most state parks in region will be open for day with facilities and limited staff with Grand Isle State  
13 Park open for limited overnight reservations. Many local private campgrounds will be open. Rest  
14 areas and welcome centers will have additional port a lets brought in. State Message boards to visitors  
15 will be set up. VTRans Command Center monitoring traffic congestion and relaying information.  
16 Additional cell towers and relays are being set up.

17  
18 There has been a lot of outreach to local residents and businesses by local EMDs to prepare ahead of  
19 time for the event (gas, food, groceries ahead of time, expect delays, post your property to deter  
20 trespassing, etc.). The schools in the area are closed for the day. Many municipal offices closed or  
21 closing early. Exodus of area visitors are a big concern for traffic congestion. The amount of traffic for  
22 the day will depend on the weather.

23  
24 Commissioners shared information about local events. S. Jesen mentioned that Alburgh has an  
25 amazing weekend long event planned and shared information with Commissioners. Nicole Draper  
26 shared the teen/young adult substance free event being organized with Swanton Recreation and  
27 Franklin County Caring Communities for Saturday. It was designed and organized by teens and young  
28 adults. C. Sawyer shared City event information. H. Demars noted appreciation for the information  
29 shared and the discussion.

### 30 31 **Commissioner Announcements**

32 Andy Alling recognized and welcomed Danielle Turin, noting it was her third day with NRPC and that  
33 she will be spending about half of her work time in North Hero serving in three roles.

### 34 35 **Adjourn**

36 *H. Demars motioned to adjourn. S. Jensen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

37 The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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