

1 **NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting**
2 **March 25, 2025, at 6:30 PM**
3 **Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and NRPC Office)**
4 **75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, VT 05478**
5

6 **Board Member Attendance:** *See attached.* A quorum was present to conduct business.
7

8 **Staff:** Catherine Dimitruk, Greta Brunswick, Emily Klofft, Dean Pierce, Danielle Turin
9

10 **Other Attendees:** Sam Keeper, Amber Foote, Alice Foote, Kevin Camisa, Alice Peal
11

12 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

13 None
14

15 **Regional Plan Hearing**

16 Chair P. Zamore opened up the hearing to public comment. A. Foote commented that she
17 doesn't trust that no zoning changes will occur and asked what the map updates are for if
18 not to change zoning. C. Dimitruk responded that the map updates will have an impact on
19 areas receiving Act 250 exemptions, obtaining grants and planning for housing. She
20 explained the map updates make it easier to develop in areas planned for growth and
21 reminded that the requirements are imposed by the state. L. Ruple commented on public
22 concern due to lack of clarity regarding what is allowed in rural areas. M. Frennier
23 commented that the FAQ document is helpful and should be posted for public access. K.
24 Waite asked C. Dimitruk to describe the process of plan adoption in response to comments
25 about the perceived lack of information and urgency around plan approval. C. Dimitruk
26 explained that over the course of 16 months NRPC met and worked closely with every
27 municipality's Planning Commission and/or Selectboard an average of 3-5 times, held 14
28 open houses across the region, published a series of newsletter articles, Front Porch
29 Forum posts and a St. Albans Messenger article to inform and educate people about the
30 update. NRPC worked to strike a balance between state requirements and municipal
31 plans. L. Ruple asked if conservation areas changed; C. Dimitruk responded that they
32 changed slightly due to wetlands changes, but that there is less conservation area in the
33 draft update than there is in the current plan. L. McCall asked about a property in
34 Bakersfield with no road access; C. Dimitruk responded that the plan didn't exclude lots
35 without frontage and that NRPC tried to keep to the towns' plans as much as possible. D.
36 Bergstrom mentioned an error listing Georgia as a growth area for elementary school
37 enrollment and asked if it be corrected. C. Dimitruk responded that the data available at
38 the time of update was used, and that updates will be addressed in planning and indicator
39 reports. C. Sawyer commented that no other plan has received more public comment and
40 input than this one and described the great effort to involve everyone as much as possible.
41 He said he hopes the plan will be adopted so that implementation can begin. *Y. Dandurand*
42 *motioned to adjourn the public hearing. H. DeMars seconded. Motion passed. Hearing*
43 *closed at 6:51pm.*
44

1 **Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks**

2 Chair P. Zamore called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM followed by roll call. C. Sawyer, M.
3 Stebbins and D. Choiniere made commissioner introductions.

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5 **Opportunity for Public Comment**

6 No public commented.

7 **Minutes of the February 2026 Meeting (action)**

8 *B. Murphy motioned to accept the February 2026 minutes as corrected. Y. Dandurand*
9 *seconded. J. Pelkey abstained. K. Waite asked that the minutes be corrected to reflect he*
10 *was not in attendance at the last meeting and did not take any action. C. Dimitruk*
11 *responded that the minutes would be corrected. Motion passed.*

12 **Commission Reports - written reports enclosed**

13 Finance/Operations– K. Waite reported that the full committee took action on the budget
14 adjustment.

15 Personnel – B. Buermann reported that a new employee is starting in June.

16 Executive Committee – P. Zamore reported that an update was received from C. Dimitruk
17 on legislative activity.

18 Project Review– W. Irwin reported on the three projects that are listed on the Project Review
19 Report in the board packet. He reported that the Georgia Substation project required a full
20 hearing and will be voted on in April.

21 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) – B. Morris reported that the committee received
22 a presentation by an engineering firm about the VT-207 and Bushey Rd. intersection, and
23 that it will be presented to the Swanton Selectboard. Marlana Valenta (NRPC) provided a
24 presentation on grants for public area electric vehicle charging stations.

25 Brownfields Committee – No report.

26 Plan and Policy Committee- No report.

27 Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) – No report.

28 Rural Community Transit- No report, but C. Dimitruk commented that the committee is
29 going on a retreat in two weeks' time.

30 Healthy Roots Advisory Committee- M. Scholten reported that Peter Jenkins has taken over
31 Christine Porcaro's role. The committee is working on organizing documentation, and the
32 next meeting will be focused on committee structure and member roles.

33 Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation- K. Waite reported that the committee reviewed
34 its funds transfer policy with NRPC and establishing clear procedures, roles and
35 responsibilities.

36 Office- See staff report. D. Pierce mentioned that the water quality council's membership
37 confirmation happens every two years and appealed for backup members.

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Town of Richford Municipal Plan, Confirmation of Planning Efforts, and Determination of Energy Compliance (action)

The Richford Municipal Plan was reviewed for compliance. L. Ruple recommended the board grant regional approval and confirm the planning process of the Richford Municipal Plan, and to grand a determination of energy compliance of the Richford Town Plan.

B. Buermann made a motion to grant regional approval and confirm the planning process of the Richford Municipal Plan. N. Brosseau seconded. Motion carried. B. Murphy made a motion to grant a determination of energy compliance of the Richford Town Plan. W. Irwin seconded. Motion carried.

Regional Plan Adoption (action)

L. McCall asked if there would be any opportunity to amend the maps. C. Dimitruk responded that there are two ways to amend: the board can amend the maps itself if the property in question is less than ten acres; or the board can do a regular plan amendment. C. Dimitruk noted that the plan will be submitted by the end of the week and that this will be the first region in the state to submit its regional plan for final approval.

B. Murphy motioned to adopt the 2026-2034 Regional Plan. B. Morris seconded. Motion carried by 25 votes, with S. Jensen and L. McCall abstaining.

Commissioner Announcements

A. Alling announced that the official groundbreaking of North Hero’s new Fire Department and Public Works garage took place on March 16, and that the town is also in the process of bringing its new water storage tank online for use. B. Morris announced construction of Grand Isle’s new Library building is underway and that the building is framed in. H. Demars mentioned that the current library has been in operation since 1929.

Adjourned 7:25PM

FY26 NPRC Board of Commissioners- Meeting Attendance

Municipality	Board Member	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
		7/30/25	No Meeting	9/24/25	10/29/25	No Meeting	12/17/25	1/28/26	2/25/26	3/25/26	4/29/26	5/27/26	6/24/26
Frkln Cty Youth	Vacant												
GI Cty Youth	Amelia Demars	X		X	E				E				
Alburg Town	Alex McCracken	E											
Alburg Town	Danielle Choiniere	X		X	X		X	X	X	X			
Alburg Village	Vacant												
Alburg Village	Vacant												
Bakersfield	William Irwin	X		E	X		X	X	X	X			
Bakersfield	Linda McCall	X		X	X		X	X	X	X			
Berkshire	Josh Grims	X		E	E		E		E				
Berkshire	Claude Charron												
Enosburg Falls	Leonard Charron												
Enosburg Falls	Vacant												
Enosburgh Town	Jesse Woods												
Enosburgh Town	James Oullette (8/25)				X				X	X			
Fairfax	Barbara Murphy	X		X	X		X	X	X	X			
Fairfax	Nicholas Nadeau/Mike Bishop (10/25)				X		X	E	X	X			
Fairfield	Julia Callan	X		X	X		X	X	X	X			
Fairfield	Chuck Verderber	E		X	X		E	E	X				
Fletcher	Michelle Frennier	E		E	E		X	X	X	X			
Fletcher	Lori Ruple	X		X			X	X	X	X			
Franklin	Yvon Dandurand	X		X	E		E	X	X	X			
Franklin	vacant												
Georgia	Carl Rosenquist	X			X		X	X	X				
Geogia	Doug Bergstrom 3/26									X			
Georgia	Kirk Waite	X		X	X		E	X	E	X			
Grand Isle	Barclay Morris	X		X	X		X	E	X	X			
Grand Isle	Howard Demars	X		X	E		X	X	X	X			
Highgate	Jack Pelkey	X			X		X	X	X	X			
Highgate	Anna Comiskey	X		X	X								
Isle La Motte	Sylvia Jensen	E		X	X		E		X	X			
Isle La Motte	Mary-Catherine Graziano												
Montgomery	Leanne Barnard												
	vacant 3/26												
Montgomery	Mark Brouillette												
North Hero	Andy Alling	X		X			X	X	X	X			
North Hero	Vacant												
Richford	Marissa Tessier												
Richford	Vacant												
Sheldon	Vacant												
Sheldon	Mathew Stebbins	X		X			X	X	X	X			
South Hero	Peter Zamore	X		X	X		X	X	X	X			
South Hero	Bob Buermann	X		X	X		X	X	X	X			
St. Albans City	Elisabeth Nance	X		X	X		X	E	X	X			
St. Albans City	Chip Sawyer	X		X	E		X	X	X	X			
St. Albans Town	Marietta Scholten	X		X	X		X	E		X			
St. Albans Town	Megan Sherlund	X		X	X		E	E	E				
Swanton Town	Nicole Draper	X		X			X	E		X			
Swanton Town	Nicholas Brosseau	X		X	X			X	X	X			
Swanton Village	Heidi Britch-Valenta	X		X	X		X	X	X	X			
Swanton Village	Damon Broderick	X		X	X		X		X	X			
	# Municipalities	18	0	18	14	0	15	15	17	19	0	0	0

QUORUM = 12

E= Excused ; X=Present