

NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting
June 24, 2026 at 6:30PM
Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and NRPC Office)
75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, VT 05478

Board Member Attendance: See attached. A quorum was present to conduct business.
Staff: Catherine Dimitruk, Greta Brunswick, Marlena Valenta

Welcome, introductions, opening remarks

Chair P. Zamore called the meeting to order at 6:31PM followed by roll call. N. Brosseau gave a more detailed introduction of himself as part of the ongoing Commissioner introductions.

Adjustments to the Agenda

None.

Opportunity for Public Comment

None.

Minutes of the May 2026 Meeting (action)

N. Brosseau moved to approve the May 2026 minutes, seconded by B. Murphy. K. Waite and M. Bishop abstain. Motion passes.

Commission Reports

Finance/Operations: No report, action items later in the meeting.

Personnel : B. Buermann reported that the committee completed their annual staff review and wants to recognize the staff for their wonderful work. The regional plan has been completed and approved and the commission continues to provide statewide leadership on regional planning. Additionally the staff provide valuable municipal support. He expressed gratitude to the staff.

Executive Committee: No additional report.

Project Review Committee: W. Irwin reported the committee did not meet.

Plan and Policy Committee: C. Dimitruk reported the committee did not meet.

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC): B. Morris reported the committee did not meet.

Brownfields Committee : C. Sawyer reported the committee did not meet.

Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC): B. Murphy reported the July meeting is cancelled.

Rural Community Transit: C. Dimitruk notes the meeting included looking at the upcoming year's budget. Staff is working with RCT on a transportation assessment including surveying employers and provider organizations.

Healthy Roots Advisory Committee: M. Scholten reported there is potential for a mural on the Healthy Roots building. Discussions of designs and decommissioning depending on lease are ongoing.

Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation: No report.

Office: No report.

Brownfields Program Overview

G. Brunswick gave an overview of the Northwest Brownfields Program, which addresses environmental contamination in abandoned or underused properties. The program has been in existence since 2003 and has received over \$5 million in funding. 36 properties have been assessed or planned for cleanup under the program. G. Brunswick described the steering committee makeup and role as well as potential future changes to the program including participation of environmental consultants in the grant writing phase. She also highlighted a few recent or ongoing projects funded through the program.

P. Zamore asked how Greta thinks the program is going, G. Brunswick finds it is well utilized and able to fill funding gaps for critical downtown and village center projects. H. DeMars found it was a very encouraging presentation to see a program flourishing in this difficult funding time. H. Britch-Valenta noted how transformative the Brownfields program has been in the region's municipalities and appreciated the hands-on assistance Greta has been able to provide. C. Verderber asked about the old Bakersfield School and if that could potentially qualify. G. Brunswick said yes, and when a prospective buyer comes in a Phase 1 assessment will be important to determine issues including potential hazardous building materials such as lead and asbestos.

Election of Officers and Representatives for FY 27

Y. Dandurand presented the proposed list of officers for FY 27 for nomination. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair: Peter Zamore (June 30, 2027)

Vice-Chair: Elisabeth Nance (June 30, 2029)

Secretary: Barclay Morris (June 30, 2028)

Treasurer and Chair of Finance/Operations: Kirk Waite (June 30, 2029)

Chair-Personnel: Bob Buermann (June 30, 2027)

Chair- Project Review: William Irwin (June 30, 2028)

Chair- Plan and Policy Committee: Lori Ruple (June 30, 2027)

At-large member on Executive Committee: Barbara Murphy (June 30, 2028)

Y. Dandurand presented the proposed list of representatives for FY 27 for nomination.
Motion passes unanimously.

Vermont Economic Progress Council:	Barbara Murphy
Rural Community Transit:	Catherine Dimitruk
NRPC Brownfields Committee:	Chip Sawyer
Healthy Roots Collaborative:	Marietta Scholten

FY 27 Overall Work Program and Budget, Building Repayment Plan and Long Term Reserves Assignment

K. Waite explained the Finance and Operations Committee did a line by line review of the proposed budget with senior staff, as well as the building repayment plan and the long-term reserve balances and voted to present to the executive committee and full committee for ratification. The Executive Committee recommended approval. This year's presented budget is balanced. The Building Repayment Plan aims to pay the balloon payment down in smaller installments of \$14,667 instead of waiting for the large balloon payment due September 2028, at which point the building will be fully paid off. The Fund Balance report supports the moving of \$15,467 from unassigned funds to long term reserve in accordance with the Reserve Fund Balance Policy adopted by the Board.

P. Zamore motions to approve the FY27 budget, Building Repayment Plan, and Fund Balance Report, H. DeMars seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Y. Dandurand asked for clarification on who owns the building and where the money would go if the building was sold. C. Dimitruk explained that the building is owned by NRPC as a governmental organization and any decision around sale and use of money would be made by the board.

FY 27 Committee Assignments

Committee assignments will be decided on at the next meeting, so P. Zamore urged members to look over the descriptions and email Catherine with any interest.

Commissioner Announcements

W. Irwin brought up a concern heard at a selectboard about data centers and their impacts on communities. He would appreciate additional info coming to commissioners to assist with these conversations and discussions. C. Dimitruk agreed and noted this is a topic that has been of discussion among staff and other RPCs, so there is guidance and precedent to look to for potential plan language and policies.

Y. Dandurand is concerned about employment loss in Franklin County with the closure of multiple large manufacturers and employers. Given the large impact on the workforce, there is a need for a discussion to understand why this is happening and if there is anything the region can do. E. Nance notes there are discussions at the state and more local level to

132 help ease this transition. M. Stebbins requests a presentation by a relevant expert at a
133 future meeting. C. Dimitruk shares some of the work that NRPC is undertaking to assist our
134 communities deal with the impact and move forward. She will look for a relevant presenter
135 for July or September meeting.

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137 L. McCall shared that the Bakersfield Cemetery Commission will have the Vermont Old
138 Cemetery Association to do volunteer training and work with volunteers to clean and
139 straighten headstones and slabs. They will be at the cemetery from 8AM-12Pm on Saturday
140 the 27th. Other cemeteries have asked about the organization and how to get in contact,
141 Diane Larry is the Franklin County representative.

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143 C. Dimitruk thanked A. Alling for his time on the Executive Committee, and welcomed to E.
144 Nance.

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146 K. Waite motions to adjourn, P. Zamore seconds. Motion passes, meeting adjourned at
147 7:28PM.