

**Mount Ascutney  
Regional Commission**

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Minutes of Monday, February 22, 2021  
MARC Offices, Ascutney, VT  
and via Zoom

**Commissioners Present:** Tom Bock, Chester; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Kathy Rondeau, Reading; Tom Marsh, Windsor; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Terry Carter, Ludlow; Walter Martone, Springfield.

**Staff Present:** Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen, Cynthia Porter.

Tom Bock opened the meeting at 12:02 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda
  - a. None.
2. Secretary's Report
  - a. *Kathy Rondeau made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2021 MARC meeting as presented. Second by Terry Carter. Motion passed unanimously.*
3. Treasurer's Report
  - a. *Tom Marsh made a motion to receive the January 2021 financial report. Second by Etienne Ting. Motion passed unanimously.*
4. Accept FY22 Financial Audit
  - a. *Tom Marsh made a motion to accept the FY 2022 financial audit report. Second by Terry Carter. Motion passed unanimously.*
5. Update on the Connecticut River Joint Commissions
  - a. Jason Rasmussen reported on the funding situation of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions. At present, VT is not funding the organization and NH has notified that their funding level has been reduced.
  - b. Jason Rasmussen also reported on CRJC's comments on Great River Hydro's amended final license application.
6. Keys to the Valley Housing Project
  - a. Jason Rasmussen gave an update on the Tri-Commission's housing project, which is being called Keys to the Valley. All agreed that housing is a major issue for the region. The project is anticipated to be complete in June 2021. Numerous draft documents are now being released to the project steering committee and technical advisory committee. Tom Marsh noted that the project needs to look at flood hazard and other regulatory restrictions when evaluating new housing in villages. Copies can be provided to Commissioners for their review and comment. We will provide revised draft documents when they are available and report back to the board.
7. Legislative Activity

- a. Tom Kennedy reported on the substantially large proposed one-time state brownfields funding. It would include important funding levels for the region, including \$4-6 million for Springfield and \$1.5 million for Windsor projects.
- b. Tom Kennedy indicated that VAPDA is asking for an increase in funding for RPCs in the appropriations bill for the Municipal and Regional Planning Fund. RPCs have not received a funding increase in 7 years.
- c. Windsor County towns may get in the neighborhood of \$11 million if the Biden COVID relief program goes through. VT is in a uniquely good position for funding given the leadership positions of the VT delegation. He was suggesting that towns identify projects, thinking about COVID relief broadly, that are “shovel ready”. In other words, projects that can reasonably be constructed within a few years time period.

8. Old Business

- a. Tom Kennedy reported on the Ascutney Professional Building. He reported that the wastewater improvements were made in December and the attorney is working on easement language. Repairs were made to avoid water infiltration into the basement and to shore-up the chimney. Tom also noted that we filled a vacancy in the apartment within a few hours! Given the region’s housing shortage and the lack of ability to rent commercial space, he reported that he will be talking with the Building Committee soon about converting the old Ennis office space into a 1-bedroom apartment.

9. New Business

- a. Walter Martone announced that Springfield’s new Town Manager, Jeff Mobus, starts today.

10. Adjourn

*Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn at 1:10 p.m. Second by Walter Martone. Motion passed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Rasmussen