

**Mount Ascutney  
Regional Commission**

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Minutes of Monday, March 21, 2022  
MARC Offices, Ascutney, VT  
and via Zoom

**Commissioners Present:** Tom Bock, Chester; Tom Marsh, Windsor; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Walter Martone, Springfield; Terry Carter, Ludlow; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Peter Daniels, Weathersfield; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor.

**Staff Present:** Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen, Cynthia Porter, Rachel Scudder, Otis Munroe.

**Others Present:** Julie Hance, Chester.

Tom Bock opened the public hearing at 12:01 PM.

1. Peter Daniels provided an overview of the Town Plan Review Committee's assessment of approving Reading's Town Plan and confirming their planning process under 24 V.S.A. §4350, and certifying that Reading's Town Plan complies with the energy planning requirements in 24 V.S.A. §4352. No members of the public were present, and no comments were received regarding this public hearing. Tom Bock closed the hearing at 12:08 PM.

Tom Bock opened the regular meeting at 12:08 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda
  - a. The January 2022 Treasurer's report, which was tabled last month due to a formula error, will be discussed under item number 4.
2. Consideration of approval of Reading's Town Plan, confirmation of their planning process [24 V.S.A. §4350], and determination of energy compliance per 24 V.S.A. §4352
  - a. Peter Daniels indicated that the Town Plan Review Committee met last week and recommends approvals. The Committee found that Reading's Town Plan was comprehensive and meets all the requirements for approval. He stated that they conducted a survey, and the planning process met all requirements in statute. Peter also noted that the Committee found the plan met the requirements of enhanced energy planning requirements under §4352.
  - b. *Wayne Wheelock made a motion to approve Reading's Town Plan under 24 V.S.A. §4350, confirm Reading's planning process under 24 V.S.A. §4350, and make an affirmative determination of energy compliance under 24 V.S.A. §4352. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed unanimously.*
3. Secretary's Report
  - a. *Terry Carter made a motion to approve the February 28, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed unanimously.*
4. Treasurer's Report
  - a. *Wayne Wheelock made a motion to receive the corrected January 2022 financial report. Second by Tom Kenyon. Motion passed unanimously.*

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- b. *Peter Daniels made a motion to receive the February 2022 financial report as presented. Second by Wayne Wheelock. Motion passed unanimously.*
5. Staffing Updates
  - a. Jason Rasmussen reported that Alex Taft has left. He has taken a job with the Town of Hanover. We will not replace him at this point, but we may decide to do so later in the year depending upon the budget for next fiscal year.
6. Brownfields
  - a. Tom Kennedy and Peter Daniels reported on recommendations from the Brownfield Steering Committee as summarized in the memo included in the agenda packet.
  - b. *Walter Martone made a motion to approve a new policy as presented with one modification:*

*“The Brownfield Steering Committee has the authority to approve brownfield funding for assessment-related projects, and amendments to previously approved assessment projects, that have a cost of \$10K or less with concurrence of the Executive Director; assessment projects exceeding \$10K and all brownfields RLF loan and subgrant applications will require board approval. The Brownfield Steering Committee will report to the Regional Commission at their next meeting any action they have taken in this regard.*

*Second by Peter Daniels. Joe Fromberger voted no; all other Commissioners present votes yes. Motion passed.*
  - c. With that new policy in place, the Brownfields Steering Committee decision to amend funding for Bryant Grinder and Levesque projects as stated in the March 15, 2022 memo will take effect.
  - d. No action is needed at this time for the Park Street School clean-up RLF loan. We anticipate action needed on that proposal within the next couple months.
  - e. Tom Kennedy reported that MARC has applied to the U.S. EPA for \$3.5 million in new brownfield funding.
7. Review Regional Plan Drafts
  - a. Walter Martone reported that the Regional Plan Committee has reviewed the proposed chapters in significant detail and their changes have been addressed in the proposed version. The Committee recommends accepting the proposed Regional Plan chapters and incorporating them into the final draft Regional Plan for formal adoption later this year.
  - b. *Walter Martone made a motion to accept the Utilities and Facilities Chapter as presented and include it in the final draft Regional Plan for adoption later this year. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed unanimously.*
  - c. *Terry Carter made a motion to accept the Cultural and Aesthetics Resources Chapter as presented and include it in the final draft Regional Plan for adoption later this year. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed unanimously.*
8. Old Business

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- a. Jason Rasmussen asked about whether to continue virtual meetings for the near term. Maintaining a virtual is important for a variety of reasons; we have never had such good attendance. It was decided to make MARC Board meetings hybrid so some can attend in-person and others can attend on Zoom.
  - b. Tom Bock welcomed Julie Hance as Chester's new representative to the Board of Commissioners. Tom will continue as Chester's representative and Chair through the annual meeting, then Julie will become Chester's rep.
9. Adjourn

*Peter Daniels made a motion to adjourn at 1:10 p.m. Second by Wayne Wheelock. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Rasmussen