

**Mount Ascutney
Regional Commission**

Minutes of Monday May 16, 2022
via Zoom

Commissioners Present: Kathy Rondeau, Reading; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Terry Carter, Ludlow; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Crissy Webster, Alt, Springfield

Staff Present: Jason Rasmussen, Cynthia Porter, Lisa Comstock, Otis Munroe, Rachel Scudder

Guest presenter: Marie Caduto, Watershed Planner

Kathy Rondeau, acting as chairperson in absence of Tom Bock, opened the meeting at 12:02 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda
 - a. Kathy Rondeau asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were made.
2. Secretary's Report
 - a. Minutes for April 18, 2022 meeting were presented.
 - b. Joe Fromberger made note the date on the minutes was wrong.
 - c. *Motion to approve the minutes, after date is amended, was made by Joe Fromberger and was seconded by Terry Carter. Motion passed unanimously.*
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Treasures Report for April 2022 was presented.
 - b. *Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Wayne Wheelock and was seconded by Joe Fromberger. Motion passed unanimously.*
4. Basin 10 Plan
 - a. A presentation was given by Marie Caduto, Watershed Planner, on the Basin 10 plan, which covers 21 towns within watersheds of the Ottauquechee River, the Black River, Mill Brooks, Lull's Brook, and a section of the Connecticut River. Marie Caduto states they are studying the water quality and habitats in our region and are looking for areas of improvement and protection, and potential partners to help them meet their management goals. Marie Caduto requested participation in a survey and asked that we include it in any newsletters to get it out to the public.
 - b. Jason Rasmussen said he would ask Chris Yurek to compile links to the survey and the project website to be included in the next newsletter.
5. Regional Bridge Projects
 - a. Otis Munroe stated bridge projects are now being prioritized with a quantitative approach. VTrans gave us a list of "asset-driven" projects that are identified using

their asset management software. The TAC reviewed those projects and also developed recommended regionally-driven bridge projects for funding consideration. Projects with higher transportation values will get funded first. The TAC recommends submittal to VTrans of the bridge projects listed in the memo.

- b. *Motion was made by Wayne Wheelock to ratify the TAC's recommendations and submit the asset-driven and regionally-driven bridge projects list to VTrans, and was seconded by Tom Kenyon. Motion passed unanimously.*

6. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

- a. Rachel Scudder stated grant money is being applied for through the Vermont Community Fund to hire a consultant to train staff at Mount Ascutney Regional Commission about diversity, equity and inclusion. The application requires a Letter of Support from the Board. A draft letter was included in the packet.
- b. *Motion was made by Joe Fromberger to authorize the Chair to sign the Letter of Support as presented, and was seconded by Terry Carter. Motion passed unanimously.*

7. Review Regional Plan Draft

a. Health Chapter

- 1. Rachel Scudder stated the chapter is meant to outline existing work and reinforce future plans for health needs in the community.
- 2. Kathy Rondeau asked if the chapter could be made easier to read in print format as some of the images and graphics are not legible.
- 3. Jason Rasmussen requested a motion to approve the draft chapter. No motion was made. It was decided the chapter would be reviewed after changes have been made to make it easier to read.

b. Adoption Schedule

- 1. Jason explained the Regional Plan expires in November 2022. It is a tight schedule to complete the updates and navigate the adoption process by then. This will require scheduling the first or two public hearings in mid-July. Jason asked if the Board was comfortable with the need to review multiple chapters in the next meeting. All agreed they would be prepared to review multiple chapters in the next meeting

8. Updates

a. ARPA

- 1. Jason Rasmussen said, according to Tom Kennedy, all towns submitted their reports last month on time. A couple questions were raised that Tom Kennedy can follow up on.

b. FY 23 budget/ funding update

- 1. Jason Rasmussen reported the FY23 budget is still being finalized due to uncertainty with certain funding sources in the Legislature. He noted we are getting a 5% increase in funding for transportation, and an additional \$30,000 from VTrans for bike and pedestrian planning effort. The final legislative

Draft

outcomes are not yet clear, but there is about \$1.5 million in additional ACCD funding and significant money in H.518 for RPC's to help towns with energy improvements to municipal buildings. The Budget Committee will need to meet soon, and a proposed FY23 budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June.

2. MARC received an award of \$3.5 million in new brownfield RLF funds. Many thanks to Tom and Cindy for their efforts on this.
9. Old Business
 - a. There was no old business.
 10. Adjourn
 - a. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to adjourn at 1:12 p.m., Tom Kenyon seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Comstock