



NVDA

*Northeastern Vermont
Development Association*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Zoom Meeting

February 23, 2023

6:00 PM

MINUTES

Those attending:

Committee:

Hope Colburn
Martha Feltus
Fred Saar
Paul Brouha
Cynthia Staurt
Laura Dolgin, President

Staff:

Tina Gonyaw
David Snedeker

Guests:

The Meeting was called to order by President Laura Dolgin at 6:01 PM

Update Agenda

None

Minutes

A motion to accept the minutes of the October 27, 2022 meeting as presented was made by Fred Saar and seconded by Paul Brouha and Martha Feltus. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

Financials

The October, November and December 2022 Unaudited Financial Statements were discussed and a motion to approve them subject to audit was made Paul Brouha and seconded by Fred Saar. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

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The regional planning and development commission serving The Northeast Kingdom: Caledonia, Essex and Orleans Counties
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Appointment to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee

Tina Gonyaw advised that the Revolving Loan Fund committee members Hope Colburn and John Morley – Orleans County terms will expire at the end of January 2023. The remaining members of the committee are Tom Robinson – Caledonia County, Joel Cope – Essex County and William Davies - Attorney whose terms will expire in 2024.

A motion to re-appoint Hope Colburn and John Morley to the Revolving Loan Fund Committee members for 2-year terms was made by Cynthia Stuart and seconded by Fred Saar. The motion was approved on a voice vote.

RPC Legislative Funding Request

David Snedeker discussed the requests of VT regional planning commissions to their respective boards (or leadership) to request the VT legislature to provide full funding to the RPCs in accordance with the PTT funding formula that is set out in statute. After discussion, the following motion was made by Fred Saar, seconded by Martha Feltus:

"In recognition of the current high level of need for municipal assistance, especially in rural communities, and the expectation of the RPCs to provide greater assistance to municipalities, the NVDA Executive Committee encourages the VT Legislature to follow the statutory PTT funding formula to fully fund regional planning commissions."

Motion passed unanimously.

Regional Plan re-adoption and update

- Existing plan is set to expire August 27, 2023, so an interim update and readoption is required in order to ensure that NVDA continues to have a plan that is in effect.
- For the interim update, the energy plan, which received substantial deference in 2018 from the Department of Public Service will require some modifications in order to receive substantial deference.
- The NEW regional plan, which will be developed with the assistance of SE Group, will be streamlined, visionary, and user-friendly. It will contain an executive summary and be organized around general planning themes. It is an 18 month process.
- The goal for this timeline is to ensure that NVDA does not have an expired plan at any time. Timeline for readoption is tight, so we are aiming for a readoption to occur no later than late July.

Date	Action
March 15 th	NVDA staff completes revised draft of energy plan to meet amended standards of Act 174. The standards are not radically different, and the new statewide LEAP modeling will NOT be available. Therefore, targets for generation, fuel switching, and weatherization will not change.
April 1	Proposed amended energy plan goes to Executive Committee, Energy Committee, and Department of Public Service (for an initial determination of compliance with Act 174).

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May 1	The remainder of the plan – which will only receive minimal updates – will go to the Executive Committee. Updates will be limited to factual and data updates (e.g. remove references to FTZ in economic development plan.) Executive Committee will have one month to review.
June 3	30 days prior to the final hearing, readoption starts, with required notifications to (1) the chair of the legislative body of each municipality within the region; (2) the executive director of each abutting regional planning commission; (3) the Department of Housing and Community Development within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development; (4) business, conservation, low-income advocacy, and other community or interest groups or organizations that have requested notice in writing prior to the date the hearing is warned; and (5) the Agency of Natural Resources and the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. Note: Our bylaws have no specifications for the number of hearings, but we typically hold two – one in the St. Johnsbury area and one in the Newport Area.
July 8	Final hearing held. Note: If we need to make changes, we need to restart the 30 day process with notifications. (“Changes” do not include typos, etc.)
<u>No later than July 26th</u>	Adoption can take place after final hearing, during the month of July. A regional plan or amendment shall be adopted by not less than a 60 percent vote of the commissioners representing municipalities, in accordance with the bylaws of the regional planning commission. It will be difficult to get 60% of our commissioners representing municipalities at one meeting, so we recommend hosting an information meeting to be following by a voting period. Plan does not become effect until 35 days after. Our existing plan expires August 27.
Immediately after adoption	NVDA sends updated and readopted plan to all municipalities and contacts the Department of Public Service and they set up a hearing for Substantial Deference.

Other Business

David informed the committee that the closing date on the sale of the Gallery Building is set for March 1, 2023

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 PM with a motion to adjourn by Fred Saar and seconded by Paul Brouha.