

1 **NRPC Board of Commissioners Meeting**
2 **October 30, 2024 at 6:30 PM**
3 **Hybrid Meeting (St. Albans Town Hall and Zoom)**
4 **Northwest Regional Planning Commission**
5 **75 Fairfield Street, St. Albans, VT 05478**
6

7 **Attendance**

8 Commissioners: *See attached*. A quorum was present to conduct business.

9 NRPC Staff: Catherine Dimitruk, Bethany Remmers, Greta Brunswick, Nora Brown Dean Pierce, Kyle
10 Grenier, Cliff Jenkins, Luke Slomba.

11 Other attendees: Sean Adkins, St. Albans Town Manager

12
13 Chair Peter Zamore called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.
14

15 **Adjustments to the Agenda**

16 None.
17

18 **Welcome, Introductions, Opening remarks**

19 The Chair welcomed everyone to the NRPC's October board meeting followed by introductions.
20

21 **Opportunity for Public Comment**

22 None.
23

24 **Spotlight on St. Albans Town**

25 Megan Sherlund, Director of Community Relations and Sean Adkins, Town Manager, provided an overview
26 of projects currently underway in St. Albans Town. Projects include: Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
27 Master Plan, St. Albans Bay Vision Plan, US RT 7 North-Shared Use Path, Sidewalk build out on US RT 7 South,
28 St. Albans Town Health Path, Updates to the St. Albans Town Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, Updates to
29 town stormwater infrastructure.
30

31 **Minutes from the September 2024 Meeting (*action item*)**
32

33 *C. Rosenquist motioned to approve the September 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting minutes as*
34 *presented. J. Pelkey seconded. Motion carried with one abstention.*
35

36 **Commissioner Reports**
37

38 Finance/Operations: K. Waite stated that the committee did not meet. C. Dimitruk noted that the
39 2023 financial audit field visit has been completed.

40 Personnel – B. Buermann stated that the committee did not meet.

41 Executive Committee – P. Zamore stated that the committee met and reviewed the Public
42 Participation Plan.

43 Project Review Committee (no action needed)

44 Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)– K. Grenier, in H. Garrett's absence gave a brief overview
45 of the October meeting which featured a presentation from VAOT: Rail Plan update, and regionally
46 significant rail trail projects.

47 Brownfields Committee – M. Sherlund stated that the committee did not meet.

48 Regional Plan and Policy Committee – L. Ruple stated that the committee did not meet but will
49 meet in November.

50 Vermont Economic Progress Council (VEPC) – B. Murphy stated there were no updates.

51 Green Mountain Transit – C. Dimitruk stated that the board has met often over the past month to
52 discuss urban service cuts, study to examine rural service, next round of urban service cuts, which
53 could impact service in St. Albans and Milton.

54 Healthy Roots Advisory Committee – B. Remmers stated that the transfer to CVOEO is going well.

55 Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation – K. Waite stated there was no update to report.

56 Staff Announcements – G. Brunswick noted that the village of Highgate recently received a
57 designated neighborhood development area, the first in the region.

58

59 **NRPC Public Participation Policy** (*action item*)

60 C. Dimitruk provided a brief overview of the policy. H. Demars asked about the implementation timeline
61 and how newly incurred costs of the policy would be considered. C. Dimitruk noted that many of the
62 factors included are currently happening, but that the policy gives the opportunity for a focus on
63 consistency and clear expectations. Dimitruk also noted that while there is not a specific line in the NRPC
64 budget to address the plan, that individual projects factor in time and budget for the implementation of
65 public participation. K. Waite noted that the plan had been reviewed and recommended for adoption by
66 the Executive Committee.

67

68 *H. Demars motioned to adopt the presented Public Participation Policy document and incorporate into work*
69 *plans as necessary. L. McCall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

70

71 **Northern Lake Champlain Tactical Basin Plan** (*action item*)

72 D. Pierce provided a brief overview of the plan, and noted that there is an NRPC staff recommendation to
73 find that the Northern Lake Champlain Tactical Basin Plan is in conformance with the Northwest Regional
74 Plan.

75

76 *B. Murphy motioned to find that the Northern Lake Champlain Tactical Bassin Plan is in conformance with*
77 *the Northwest Regional Plan, as required by 10 VSA §1253(d) (2)(I). B. Buermann seconded. Motion carried*
78 *unanimously.*

79

80 *K. Waite motioned to find the Department of Environmental Conservation works closely with NRPC when*
81 *prioritizing water quality improvement projects within the region, as required by 10 VSA §1253(d) (3)(D). B.*
82 *Buermann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

83

84 **Commissioner Announcements**

85 C. Rosenquist thanked NRPC for their recent 3-Acre Permit overview presentation. Rosenquist asked if
86 there was any possibility to create or fund a study to identify opportunities for municipalities and other
87 parties, who have limited staff and appropriate professional resources, to implement the 3-Acre rule.

88 D. Pierce noted that NRPC is currently devoting staff and intern time to identify possible opportunities
89 and/or resources.

90

91 B. Morris noted hearing discussions/opinions about possible needs for more structured county government
92 as a result of recent flooding and FEMA/community needs. Morris wondered how this might affect NRPC.

93 C. Dimitruk stated that there is a current county and regional governance study committee that has been
94 working since last year to address similar questions, so she believes this will be a topic of discussion during
95 the upcoming legislative session, but is unsure if it will reach any action this year.

96

97 **Adjourn**

98 *C. Rosenquist motioned to adjourn. B. Morris seconded. Motion carried.*

99

100 *The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.*

101