Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Ch), Maggie Bartenhagen, Nick Bartenhagen, Sam Battaglino, Elaine Beckwith, Dora Bouboulis, Heath Boyer, Tom Buchanan, Jenepher Burnell, Tom Consolino, Jack Cunningham, Dennis Franklin, Timberly Hand, Mary Alice Herbert, Emily Kunreuther, Alan LaCombe, Alice Maes, Ray Mara, Bill Murray, Carolyn Partridge, Wilson Shaffer, Steve Skibniowsky, Eric Stevens, Tim Stevenson, Roger Turner, Piet van Loon, Nicolas Wallaert, John Whitman, Norm Wright

Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Greg Brown, Lynette Hamilton, Gretchen Havreluk

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Susan McMahon, Ashley Collins

Introductions: There was a quorum of 22 towns present.

Convened: 7:35pm

Administrative Items & Reports:

Secretary’s Report: On a motion made by Bill Murray, seconded by Norm Wright, the minutes from the June meeting were approved.

Financial Report: On a motion made by Tom Buchanan, seconded by Tom Consolino, the June, July and August Finance reports were approved.

Elections for FY 2013 Nominating Committee: Carolyn Partridge was present to announce the nominations slate for Executive Board and Citizen Interest Commissioners. Additional nominations were invited from the floor and there were none. A motion was made by Norm Wright to approve the nominations as a slate, seconded by John Whitman; motion was approved.

Officers: On a motion by Steve Skibniowsky, seconded by Bill Murray, the slate of officers was approved.

Chair: Jodi French, Newfane
Vice Chair: Dora Bouboulis, Brattleboro
Secretary: Piet van Loon, Newfane
Treasurer: Norm Wright, Westminster
Council of Regional Commissions: Carolyn Partridge, Windham
Executive Board: One member has resigned her position on the Board; Elaine Beckwith. This leaves one open slot available; with the following Commissioners expressing interest: Jack Cunningham. On a motion by Bill Murray, seconded by Nicolas Wallaert, the slate for the balance of the executive board was approved.

Members:
Maggie Bartenhagen, Halifax
Tom Buchanan, Londonderry
Tom Consolino, Wilmington
Jack Cunningham, Wardsboro
Corky Elwell, Citizen Interest: Business & Industry
Alan LaCombe, Rockingham

Citizen Interest Commissioners: Four members have resigned their positions as a Citizen Interest Commissioner; Isaac Wagner, Skip Lisle, Dominique Haynes, and Richard Davis. This leaves four open slots available with the following people expressing interest: Jolene Hamilton, Conservation, Greg Brown, Housing, Margaret Newton, Healthcare, and Gretchen Havreluk, Young Professionals. On a motion made and seconded for the slate of Citizen Interest Commissioners; motion was approved.

A motion that nominations be closed was moved by Norm Wright, seconded by Steve Skibniowsky; motion was approved.

There was appreciation given to the resigning members of the Executive Board and Citizen Interest Commissioners, and many thanks to the Officers, Board, and Citizen Interest Commissioners who continue to serve.

Townshend Town Plan Approval: The panel reviewed the town plan and reported their findings back to the Planning Coordination Committee (PCC). The PCC recommended approval of the plan, and confirmation of the town plan and process. The chair made a motion to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by Bill Murray. The motion was unanimously approved, with one opposed. On the confirmation of the town plan and process, the Chair made a motion, seconded by Jenepher Burnell, motion was approved.

FY2013 Work Program & Budget: Tom Buchanan made a motion to approve the FY 2013 Work Program & Budget as presented, seconded by Jack Cunningham. After some discussion and a request for clarification of specific budget items the motion was approved.

Farm to Plate Presentation: Ellen Kahler and Richard Berkfield with Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund were present to discuss the Farm to Plate strategic plan that was released by the
State House in January 2011, and detail its implementation. Ellen outlined the overall goals of the plan, which include:

- Increase the economic development in Vermont’s food and farm sector.
- Create more jobs for the food and farm economy.
- Improve access to healthy local foods.

Ellen summarized the Food System Diagram and explained that the elements of the plan, farm inputs, food production, wholesale/retail distribution, etc are what help support and strengthen the food system. She also offered strategies for planners that could support the Farm to Plate initiative: mapping, forming task forces for related projects, and expanding composting with a recycling bill that was recently passed at the State level. Richard Berkfield, Executive Director of Post Oil Solutions and a local employee of Farm to Plate, explained that the main focus of the plan is the development of community based food systems. It is their vision that the Windham Regional Plan update will include policies that will support the further development of a local food system. Richard also discussed the Windham County Farm to School Program, and its mission to improve student health and academic performance. He outlined the primary program goals: increase local food offerings in schools, create and maintain more school gardens, and integrate education about these topics in the classroom. Richard explained the Windham Farm and Food Network’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. One of the most important steps is to raise awareness about the local food economy.

**Executive Director’s Report & Other Business:**

1. Chris informed Commissioners that Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC) has been awarded short term planning funds, which will be used to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) by the Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) group. SeVEDS is planning a Windham Region Economic Development Conference on September 13th for municipalities, businesses, and other non-profits to hear more about SeVEDS and the CEDS process.

2. Chris announced that the Annual Dinner will be moved to the end of November, and will be held at the same location in Rockingham. A guest speaker is currently being lined up for the event.

3. Chris announced that WRC and Bennington County Regional Commission are co-sponsoring a Southern Vermont Rivers Conference for all town officials, road crews, and interested citizens. This conference will examine a range of interrelated topics including the science and physics of river and stream behavior, the role of floodplains, road repair and construction, and permitting and regulation of development in flood hazard areas. It will take place on October 16th at the Wilmington Memorial Hall, Wilmington, VT.

4. The next Commission meeting will be held on October 30th, and the main topic of discussion will be country stores and village revitalization within the region.

**Other Business:**
There was a proposal made to change the start time of the Commission meetings from 7:30pm to 7:00pm. The Executive Board voted to approve this change, subject to approval of the Commission. Steve Skibniowsky made a motion to approve the change in the start time, which was seconded by Tom Consolino. There was some brief discussion regarding the time change, and Piet van Loon made a motion to table the action until the next meeting. John Whitman seconded the motion to table. The motion to table the vote failed. The motion to change the start time passed with one opposed. With this vote, Full Commission meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. beginning with the October 30th meeting.

Norm Wright moved adjournment.
Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins