Full Commission Meeting  
February 26, 2013  
Broad Brook Grange, Guilford, VT

Commissioners Present: Jodi French (Chair), Maggie Bartenhagen, Nick Bartenhagen, Sam Battaglino, Dora Bouboulis, Jenepher Burnell, Dick Clark, Tom Consolino, Jack Cunningham, Kimberly Hund, Alan LaCombe, Priscilla Margola, Eric Stevens, Roger Turner, John Whitman

Citizen Interest Commissioners Present: Lynette Hamilton

Guests Present: Laura Sibilia, Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, Patrick Moreland, Town of Brattleboro

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Ashley Collins

Introductions: There was not a quorum with only 11 towns present.

Convened: 7:04PM

Administrative Items & Reports:

Secretary’s Report: On a motion by J. Whitman, seconded by J. Cunningham, the minutes from the January meeting were approved with two abstentions; subject to ratification at the next Commission meeting.

Financial Report: On a motion by M. Bartenhagen, seconded by J. Cunningham, the January finance report was approved; subject to ratification at the next Commission meeting.

Brookline 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. J. Cunningham made a motion to approve the plan as presented, and was seconded by T. Consolino. The motion was unanimously approved; subject to ratification at the next Commission meeting. On the confirmation of the town plan and process, J. Cunningham made a motion, seconded by T. Consolino, motion was approved; subject to ratification at the next Commission meeting.

Southeast Vermont Economic Development Strategy (SeVEDS): Patrick Moreland with the Town of Brattleboro, and Laura Sibilia with Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation, were present to discuss the development of a Comprehensive Economic Development
Strategy (CEDS) for the Windham Region. In addition to providing an economic development strategy for the region, a CEDS that is approved by the U.S. Economic Development Administration will also allow the region to access federal development resources through that agency. Patrick Moreland outlined the general goals and initiatives, plan of action and the fundamental components of a CEDS, and explained that SeVEDS is trying to communicate a growing sense of urgency about the economic vitality with the region, and the need for more public discussion and involvement about the region’s economic future. There a number of contributing factors for this cause of urgency; low wages, cost of living, limited employment opportunities, and an aging population, all of which result in greater economic insecurity. Patrick displayed graphs showing the demographic changes over the last two decades, and explained that one of the goals is to slow this decline in the region.

Laura Sibilia discussed SeVEDS funding issues, and that they are trying to raise $100,000. The Town of Brattleboro has committed to providing $50,000 through their Community Development Block Grant funding if other municipalities will collectively match an additional $50,000. This item will be voted on in some town meetings. Laura summarized the SeVEDS kickoff event that was held on February 15th and showed two video clips which provided feedback from some of the attendees about the need for economic development planning. Laura explained that the CEDS regional public meetings will be in March, with follow up with meetings in May. The draft CEDS plan will available for public comment in September; Laura encouraged Commissioners to promote these meetings to their towns.

**Executive Director’s Report:**

*Proposed Bylaw Amendment:* The proposed bylaw changes would add an additional member to the Executive Board and would establish a process by which nominees for WRC offices would come from the Executive Board. The Executive Board approved the amendment during its January meeting, and presented during the January Full Commission meeting per the bylaw amendment requirements. On a **motion** by J. Whitman, seconded by J. Cunningham, the amendments to the bylaws were **approved; subject to ratification at the next Commission meeting.**

*VY Technical Hearings:* Chris explained that he had participated in technical hearings before the Public Service Board in docket 7862, which concerns Entergy Nuclear Vermont Yankee. This is a chance for WRC to cross examine witnesses and get information onto the record for the PSB to make a decision. The focus of the WRC’s cross examination, and participation in the docket, continues to relate to the conditions of decommissioning when the plant eventually ceases operation. The WRC continues to remain neutral on the question as to whether or not the plant should continue operation.
Weatherization Project Report: Chris mentioned that an article in the newsletter details the very positive results of the weatherization projects, noting that there has been a significant increase in energy savings.

Other Business:
It was suggested by a Commissioner that the WRC should find a way to track legislation being considered by the Vermont legislature. Concerning S. 30, which calls for a moratorium on the development of industrial wind, it was suggested that the WRC should communicate to the Senate that the bill represents poor governance. No action was taken.

J. Cunningham Moved to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 9:04PM

Respectfully submitted,
Ashley Collins