Windham Regional Commission Natural Resources Committee Minutes
June 25, 2020

NRC Members Present: Lise Fortin (Chair), Mike Tuller, Linda Hecker, Bill Dunkel, Susan Hammond, Andy Toepfer

CWAC Committee Members Present: None

NRC Members Absent: Bob Anderson, Kathy Urffer, Everett Wilson, Lynette Hamilton, Kevin Stine, David Deen, Jim Pinkerton

Staff Present: Margo Ghia

Public: None

Presenter: None

1. Call to Order
   • Meeting called to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Introductions & Welcome

3. Additions or Changes to the Agenda
   • The action of approving the Feb. 27, 2020 minutes was added to the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes
   • Action: Approve draft minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting
     o Andy made the motion and Mike seconded. All approved. Motion passed.
   • Action: Approve draft minutes of the April 23, 2020 meeting.
     o Bill made the motion and Andy seconded. All approved. Motion passed.
   • Follow-Up on Items from previous Minutes that are not on the current agenda
     o None addressed

5. Regional Plan Re-Adoption Report for Natural Resources & Land Use
   • Lise provided a background of the re-adoption process. Chris Campany had sent out re-adoption notes to the full commission for review, then addressed the process at the full commission meeting.
Margo presented her staff report for the natural resources and land use summary and policies sections. The report is a summary of issues brought up by the committee in previous reviews of the Regional Plan.

Lise proposed to the committee that further discussion of updating the plan be put off until the process of updating the new plan is well underway. Andy agreed it was wise to put off revising the plan until the pandemic has played out a bit – there will be a lot of things that will change in the next few years.

Bill mentioned that the committee is in a good spot with the work we have done and it is good to wait a bit.

Mike commented that it will be interesting to see how act 250 plays out and as new developments play out due to Covid.

Mike made a suggestion for discussion for the Regional Plan Update: Stormwater management from solar fields a real issue – more language needed for development of solar.

6. Committee Focus Discussion

Lise brought up the question of what the committee wants to do and focus on for the remainder of the year. Where does the committee go from here now that re-adoption has been discussed? What other work could we be doing?

Suggestions from the committee include:
- Green Mountain National Forest – learning more about their work
- Small wind project for Wardsboro – they are seeing more requests for that type of development going in – Lise has a connection for a potential field trip or speaker
- EAB – things that we can do in our communities to keep the work going. Maybe share across the full commission.
  - Linda shared an educational poster that Guilford just received to put up on trailheads.
  - Guilford had an outdoor socially distant training and now their Ash tree inventory is almost done.
- Tactical Basin Plan – boots on the ground to identify people and organizations that should be a part of the process
- Concern about number of visitors to our recreation areas in the region. Useful to have data related to Covid
  - Could WRC have a role in collecting data?
  - Invite Jeff to speak at a meeting. What is WRC doing, what holes are there?
- Act 171. Trying to identify the largest, most critical connectors, where are they, and how do you work to highlight/preserve them?
- Gather informational and educational resources about pertinent topics and start to disseminate

Actions for next meetings:
- Margo to invite Jeff Nugent to speak on WRC trail monitoring
- EAB – sharing of resources
- Connectivity Collaborative – update on activities

7. Upcoming Events
• None at this time.

8. **Public Comment**
   • Marie Caduto sent out a notice that the Tactical Basin 12 (Deerfield) Plan has been officially approved and released.

9. **Next Meeting**
   • July Meeting – July 23 at 5pm

10. **Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn by Linda Hecker and seconded by Sue Hammond. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 5:57pm.