



**Full Commission Meeting
October 31, 2023**

Commissioners Present:

Sue Fillion	Brattleboro
Ralph Meima	Brattleboro
Stanley Noga, Jr.	Brookline
Sarah Shippee	Dover
Matthew Hoffman	Dummerston
Cheryl Kaufman	Grafton
Eric Stevens	Grafton
Steve Lembke	Guilford
Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair	Guilford
Stephan Chait	Halifax
Edee Edwards	Halifax
George Mora	Londonderry
Denis Pinkernell	Londonderry
Edith Mas	Marlboro
Ann Golob	Newfane
Susan Hammond	Rockingham
Andrew Snelling	Townshend
Jim Pinkerton, Jr.	Vernon
Tim Arsenaault	Vernon
Jack Cunningham	Wardsboro
Charles Goodwin	Weston
Peter Barus	Whitingham
Bob Bois	Wilmington
Ann Manwaring	Wilmington
Bill Dunkel	Windham

Guests/Members of the Public: none

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Executive Director; Colin Bratton, Transportation Planner

Guest Speaker: None

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order by Chair Gabby Ciuffreda at approximately 7:00 p.m. There were no amendments to the agenda.

A quorum of 18 towns was present.

Approval of September 26, 2023 Minutes: On a motion by Commissioner Goodwin, seconded by Commissioner Mas, the minutes were approved with 4 abstentions.

Program: Transportation Planner Colin Bratton presented the Vermont Health Equity Planning project being led by him and Senior Planner Matt Bachler. The Windham Regional Commission has worked with our counterparts at RPCs around the State in the development of a toolkit as a guide for towns on local planning and policies to promote healthier communities. As part of this project the WRC has funding to work with towns on implementation projects to advance health equity in the region. This could include developing language for town plans and updated bylaws, planning for transportation projects that promote active transportation, or consultations for other ways to improve public health. Colin asked Commissioners to report back to their town and discuss interest in working with the WRC on health equity implementation projects. Chris noted the need for physical master planning of compact settlement areas in order to identify areas appropriate for growth, specific improvements to community mobility and connectivity, and the identification of infrastructure needs to support compact settlement. Such planning would also create a common vision within the community. Commissioners brought up mobility issues related to healthcare appointments, and raised broader issues about sustaining quality health care in the region, especially as the population ages.

Transportation Planning Update: Transportation Planner Colin Bratton provided an overview of the Vermont Transportation Planning Initiative and the WRC's transportation planning program. Transportation Advisory Committee Chair Stephan Chait noted the broad scope of what the WRC does in the realm of transportation, and while it might not always be deemed exciting, towns value the work greatly. Chris noted that he frequently hears from towns that bridge and culvert inventories, sign inventories, and vehicle and pedestrian/bike counts are among the services they appreciate most.

Executive Director's Report: Chris provided an update on ongoing work with towns in the wake of the July flooding. He also explained that he is exploring the possibility of working with towns in the northwest corner of the region on a collaborative housing planning effort if the towns are interested in such.

Chair's Report: Gabby expressed her appreciation for Commissioners' time and noted that this is intended to be the final Full Commission meeting of the calendar year. The next Full Commission meeting will be in January.

Public Comment: None was offered.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m. on a motion by Commissioner Goodwin, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Arsenaault.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Campany