

Bennington County Regional Commission

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes

Friday – December 20, 2024

8:30 AM

210 South Street, Suite 6, Bennington, VT and via ZOOM

Attending: Nick Zaiac, Dan Monks, Sheila Kearns, John LaVecchia, James Salerno, Janet Hurley (staff) Bill Colvin (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 8:32am.

Colvin asked if there were any modifications to the agenda. There were none

Monks moved and Kearns seconded the approval of October 25, 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes. Approved with LaVecchia abstaining.

Financial Update

Colvin provided an update on the financial performance of the BCRC for the first five months of the fiscal year (July 1, 2024-November 30, 2024). Both income and expenses are tracking very close to budget with no major variances. Colvin also noted that the Draft FY24 audit was received on December 19th from RHR Smith. Staff is reviewing and will return comments to the auditor. The final audit will be discussed at the February 2025 Executive Committee meeting.

Staffing Update

Colvin explained that Jonathan Cooper will begin his term representing the Bennington-1 District in the Legislature the first week of January. He will work for the BCRC ten (10) to fifteen (15) hours per week. An RFP for consulting services to backfill some Jonathan's responsibilities was posted and three proposals were received. Staff reviewed the proposals, but no action was taken. Colvin noted that additional staffing updates would be discussed in Executive Session.

Program Updates

Hurley and Colvin provided program updates on topics, including:

Community and Economic Development
Pownal Village Green Study

Shaftsbury Economic Development Studies

SVHC UUSDA TA

Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Planning Programs

Manchester Village Bylaws

Manchester Town Plan

Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) Program (Bennington, Shaftsbury, Pownal)

Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) - Landgrove, Sunderland, Rupert, Sandgate

Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP)

Emergency Management – Local Hazard Mitigation Plans; FEMA TA

Brownfields – Lauzon, Benmont Mill, Shaftsbury, Pownal, North Bennington

Transportation – Ninja Path, Traffic Calming, Manchester Parking

Other Business

There was no other business.

Executive Session – Personnel

A motion to enter Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters was made by Zaiac and seconded by Monks. Approved. Recording was paused.

Recording was resumed. The Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session with no action being required.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kearns, seconded by LaVecchia. Approved.

Adjourned at 9:12am.

Respectfully submitted,

William Colvin

Director