

WILLIAMSTOWN PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MEETING HELD ON: August 13, 2025
Minutes - - (DRAFT COPY)

PRESENT: Rich Turner, CH, David Traczyk, Horace Duke, Rama Schneider

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Office.

Rich. T. Any adjustments to the Agenda? None noted.

Dave T. Move to accept the Minutes from July 09, 2025 as documented, 2nd by Horace D. All approved.

New Business:

Rich T. Normally the CVRPC would have their board meeting on the 2nd Tuesday, they usually try to take August off. However, they are having a special meeting on August 21st to go over the Montpelier City Plan, all 300 pages. Our Regional Plan will now meet twice a month. Info to share on Clean Water Advisory Committee – we actually had a meeting on July 10th. A few changes from folks on that committee got voted in – on water qualities and water issues. Went over Rules of Procedures and By-Laws. Brian from the RPC mentioned some of the water resource program areas – there is the tactical planning that we do, the Clean Water Service Provider, which is the Regional planner, they are doling out funds to Watershed Partners, Storm Water Management. There is what they call a 604B, and that's smaller projects that they have and some data collection and things like that. Also spoke on the Flood By-law up-dates. One of the things that the committee does is look at phosphorus reduction for the lake. More information given.

We didn't have a quorum for one of the Regional Planning meetings – but we are starting to has out some of the goals, strategies and then the policies. We are starting to work on the first chapter. We are trying to mirror some of the plans from the Montpelier Plan. We will be looking more into depth on the Housing Chapter and also the Land Use Map. We are trying to go through these one at a time, cross referencing between chapters. That's some of the stuff on the Regional Plan.

The Winooski Basin Water Quality Council – that's actually the council that the CVRPC has the authority to review. There is a threshold that must be met to qualify. The Winooski Basin Planner will run the numbers thru their system. For instance, normally on the 1st month they do a review of the project – vote on the project – it might be a one or two year project. More explanations on the process.

There is another project that they worked on with Northfield – part of it now is a follow up – a catch basin. Think they might be finishing it up this summer or fall.

Friends of Winooski looking at more areas to help with flooding, such as planting trees to help stabilize land and banks from future flooding.

Also looking at maintenance for any future flooding.

Sea (or seed) grant - - Moretown is looking into this.

Forest Parks & Recreation, Dave _____ and Silas spoke on state funding that is available for maintenance/repair of logging trails, ATV trails on properties that are now privately owned. Such as putting in water bars, turnouts, etc. to stop further erosion or damage to the property.

Mentioned the Transportation & Advisory Committee – we did have the work plan at the end of July – unfortunately they didn't include the budget – so basically it's been put on hold until they get the budget. So, at the next meeting we will review the budget in more detail. We usually try to do a field visit with the Transportation Advisory Committee. More talk on a project in Waterbury.

Wanted to mention something on the Bike Path Grants – is that they are going away.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Grants – not sure what happened as they were doing gap analysis and everything – projects for data collection – there's all this back pedaling going on. Maybe bc bicycles and pedestrians aren't using fossil fuels? Not sure why - - but there is still Sidewalk Projects.

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- Rich T. They were trying to combine two different programs into one – so maybe this is one of them. I'll find a little bit more maybe at our next meeting.
- Dave T. I believe that the VT Transportation has lost a lot of funding. I think that's why GMT has cut back also.
- Rich T. Some of this funding has been cut on the Federal side – that's why the State has stepped up with funding. I'll touch base with Keith when I get a little time with him on the sidewalk issue.
- Horace D. When I worked for AOT the _____ there was plentiful money – so you took from there to fund many other programs. Now the _____ is not doing as well bc of electric vehicles, etc. And the Federal government is cutting back also. Suddenly they have to be more judicious as to how they are spending money. One of last things that I heard just a few weeks ago – and the legislature isn't taking money from other areas and putting it into the transportation fund anymore than they have to.
- Rich T. Does anyone have any questions on what is going on with the Regional planning?
- Rama S. I have a comment. Horace had a comment on the education as reflected in the minutes from last month's meeting _____ I think that's suitable more for the _____ because I think it's more of a universal issue because if you go and read what's under the statue it still talks about us making plans for school _____. There's just no connection at all.
- Horace D. They have to have something by December and the _____ have to have a minimum of 4,000 students in each district. I can see kids climbing on a bus at 5:00 a.m. and getting off at 8:30.
- Rama S. There are several people there that have their heads on right. One of them is Chris Locarno. The other one is the Secretary of Education – can't remember her name, I know that she's a state rep. Also one of them is the co-chair, I have heard a lot of good things about her. I don't know what is going to come out of it – but even if it comes out of the legislature saying that it isn't going to change anything – it states in the law that _____ it changes the town plan bc there is not a connection between the school district and the towns anymore. In most places. And if they do favor consolidation there will be even less of a connection. As another thought too bc we have talked about the mileage tax and stuff, I think that its important that we think about the processes and how to fund them is an important _____ and the old ways of funding them is not good anymore than we need to explore new ways of funding them. I thing that we need to keep that in mind for our town plan.
- Dave T. So as you are involved with the RPC have you heard anything from FEMA about their updating the flood maps?
- Rich T. Absolutely not. I've heard that its coming, its coming - - nothing yet. Some in 2026, 2025, depends on the town. The Hazard Mitigation plan that we are supposed to be working on this fall – the FEMA money for that is gone and that also has to do with the mapping. The RPC is doing their regional mapping – the land use map and then the flood hazard stuff on their own.

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- Rich T. Let's look at the Survey - - they pared it down. Regarding the 2nd part of question 6 - if you are interested in volunteering for a committee - - committees need to be established. You are going to have to have somebody who is willing to lead. Hard to find volunteers. So, the 2nd part has been taken out. The goal was to have the survey out in August – but Eli was out for two weeks on vacation and Lori still had some work to finish on it. We plan to keep it open until some point in October, not date set yet. This will be mailed to every resident I Williamstown. Will need a point of contact and a place to return them. She asked if we had some money in our budget for a mailing as they only have \$250 budgeted for it, and it's closer to \$1,000. We do in fact have postage in our budget. She said that we could take it out of some of the programming that we have. Told her that we could handle the difference.
- Rama S. Printing and the town _____?
- Rich T. Yes. I thing that Jackie gave us a bunch of envelopes and we will do the printing and stuffing and Jackie will label everything and
- Rama S. Do we need to use envelopes? I thought that they just fold, staple and mail out like this.
- Rich T. Well I think that they may want a return envelope so that someone's name won't be visible. More discussion followed.
- Dave T. Could send as "Occupant" and not need to label.
- Rich T. The important part for us is to get the feedback.
- Dave T. On the back of the survey – it says for questions or comments, please contact?
- Rich T. I told her to put my information there.
- Rama S. Maybe have some extra copies printed up for the Senior class at the high school.
- Dave T. Surprisingly enough the kids like to be involved in some decisions.
- Rich T. The Library would like to get involved. They offered to do some kind of a graphic design.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Rich T. Sept. 8th, the next SB meeting – CVRPC – Niki will be here, maybe Christian too. They will be talking about Act 181 the future Land Use Map. They would like as many of the Planning Cmte members to be there as possible. I see that there will be a Harvest Festival on Sept. 7th. Might be an opportunity to have some of the surveys available. Might have to re-schedule our next Sept. meeting as I have another commitment.
- Rich T. Anything else? None - -
- Horace D. I'll make a Motion to adjourn - - 2nd by Dave T.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Meeting: September _____, 2025.

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