



Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 8, 2022
Conference Call

Executive Committee members present: A. Weinhagen, S. Lotspeich, D. Rugh, M. Tuttle, S. Wraight, G. Brunswick, C. Sawyer, R. Venkataraman, E. Vorwald and S. Westa.

2022 Officers

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Meagan Tuttle, AICP
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Sarah Wraight, AICP
NNECAPA Conference Representative

E. Vorwald, AICP
NNECAPA Section Representative

At-Large Members

Greta Brunswick

Chip Sawyer
VT Downtown Board Rep.

Ravi Venkataraman, AICP

Sue Westa, AICP

VPA Members: None.

Meeting began at 10:05 a.m.

1. Agenda Modifications

S. Lotspeich suggested that we add the Policies and Procedures Manual to the May agenda.

2. Announcements

Planning and zoning issues are at the forefront of the most recent issue of *Seven Days*, for those who haven't seen the issue. A number of EC members were referenced or provided information for the article.

3. Minutes of March 11, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting

Action: Motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting as amended: 1) C. Sawyer. 2) S. Wraight. *Motion passes unanimously; M. Tuttle abstains.*

4. Intern Cost Sharing

Brian Shupe at VNRC has asked VPA to increase its contribution to the legislative intern, who reports to VPA, VNRC and the League of Conservation Voters. A. Weinhagen reached out to B. Shupe to get a better idea of the costs and the request to increase VPA's contribution, but he hasn't heard back yet.

5. Committee Reports & Officer Round Table

A. Treasurer's Report for March 2022

S. Lotspeich gave Treasurer's Report. NNECAPA paid the \$3,000



A section of the
**Northern New England Chapter
American Planning Association**
nne.planning.org/sections/Vermont

The Vermont Planners Association (VPA) is a non-profit advocacy and educational organization of planners and related professionals. We are dedicated to advancing community planning in Vermont at the local, regional, and state levels, to foster vibrant communities and a healthy environment.

Section base payment in March, but VPA is still waiting for the pro-rata payment from NNECAPA that is based on membership numbers. There were no expenses in March, just income from the base payment. Before it issues the payment based on pro-rata membership, NNECAPA is working on straightening out the Vermont section's membership list. S. Lotspeich will speak to VPA's investment advisor to renew one, smaller CD so that its maturity date matches the larger CD, then the organization can ultimately consolidate the organization's CDs into one at the beginning of June.

Action: Motion to approve the March Treasurer's Report: 1) D. Rugh. 2) G. Brunswick. *Motion passes unanimously.*

B. Downtown Board Report

C. Sawyer gave the Downtown Board report. At the last Downtown Board meeting, Calais' Village Center designation was approved. Project-based Neighborhood Development Area in Hinesburg for Kelly's Field was also approved. Also, the Board extended the Village Center designation "grace period" from 90 days to 180 days, which allows municipalities more time to renew their designation. This extension allows communities to re-adopt their municipal plans if they've expired along with the community's Village Center designation.

The Downtown Board has lots of money for transportation grants to distribute but received fewer applications than anticipated, so there's more money available than what was requested. It will be interesting to see if the Board approves all the grant applications or reviews them more substantively and denies funding to those applications that may not be complete or that might not meet approval standards. Many communities are focused on project scoping and getting applications ready for next year's round of funding.

The Downtown Conference is scheduled for June 9th in St. Johnsbury in-person. Also, the State's Better Places Program is moving along smoothly.

C. Professional Development Committee

R. Venkataraman said the Committee is focused on organizing VPA's summer workshop/conference. It is scheduled for June 16th at 1:00 p.m. and the topic is energy planning. J. Martin (Two Rivers), M. Stotskis from Norwich Solar, and Ann Margolis from the State are the panelists. The Committee is trying to book the Forest Center at Marsh Billings Rockefeller Center in Woodstock but there are some outstanding questions such that they may need to find an alternative venue. Capacity of the Forest Center is capped at 50 people, but there will be a remote option. Sign-ups begin on April 22nd. The event will be free, and the Committee will be looking for sponsors. There will be a field trip as part of the event.

On another note, A. Weinhagen has been working with A. Friedman at VLCT on a municipal regulation of cannabis workshop, but VLCT is still trying to find a date for the workshop.

D. Communications Committee

S. Westa continues to update the website with items emailed to her for posting. E. Vorwald reminded the EC that it needs to be cognizant of use of copyrighted images on the website, which has been an issue for NNECAPA.

E. Nominating Committee

S. Westa had no report.

F. NNECAPA

S. Wraight gave a report on NNECAPA and the 2022 NNECAPA Conference. The Chapter's Conference Committee and various subcommittees are working on choosing session proposals, evaluating potential mobile workshops and preparing a preliminary program for potential distribution by the end of the month. The new NNECAPA EC had a board training in February, and the NNECAPA EC is trying to schedule an in-person EC Retreat in the next month or two. M. Tuttle is attending the first Chapter Presidents' Council at the APA Conference in San Diego at the end of April. The national APA has had a fair amount of staff turn-over, and it's trying to get a grasp on what the Chapters need from the national organization. The struggle with APA membership is that NNECAPA has a number of Chapter-only members, which information isn't being distributed from APA's membership registration system for some reason. APA prefers that planners become "full members" of both the national organization and the Chapter, but NNECAPA has a number of Chapter-only members. The next NNECAPA EC meeting is next Friday.

A. Weinhagen noted that he needs to send out a membership renewal reminder, and even with discrepancies between APA and VPA membership list, there are likely a number of people who were formerly organizational members that didn't renew for 2022 since the organizational memberships were no longer offered. M. Tuttle offered continued assistance on coordinating membership lists, as she's been working with APA on this issue for at least the last three years.

G. Legislative Committee

A. Weinhagen, E. Vorwald and S. Lotspeich provided an update on legislative items, and the weekly legislative reports contain the most substantive information. Committee Chair R. Mahoney provided testimony in the House on the Senate Housing bill (S.226) and the Act 250 bill. Rep. Stevens, Chair of House Gov't Operations and General Affairs, has asked S. Lotspeich about S.210, which is the housing bill that contains the rental registry provision that Gov. Scott objects to. To some extent there are a lot of exemptions from the rental registry, so the ultimate registry won't be as comprehensive as it could be, but it's supported by VPA. On H.492, the Act 250 appeals bill, it may move forward, but it could get tied to other Act 250 legislation as well, such as S.234 that contains the new road rule, which may not pass or otherwise is likely dead on arrival at the Governor's Office. At this point in the session, the future of S234 is very unclear, though some hope that H.492 will move forward independently of S.234 so it might have a better chance of passage.

H. Awards Committee

D. Rugh gave the Awards Committee's report. The EC discussed the cancelation of the Statehouse awards ceremony, and it was proposed to move the awards ceremony to the June workshop. The Professional Development Committee didn't think this would be too complicated or difficult to accomplish, and the Awards Committee could use some of its budgeted funds to provide refreshments at the workshop since that money won't be spent at the Statehouse anymore. C. Bryars will discuss moving the ceremony to the June workshop with R. Venkataraman to nail down details.

6. Other Business

None.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m. The next meeting is the on Friday, May 13th at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom