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Brian Shupe, AICP

Natalie Steen

David Rugh

John Adams

Alison Meaders

## Vermont Planners Association March 20, 2009 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Vermont Law School South Royalton, Vermont

**Executive Committee Members Present:** D. Farley, S. Lotspeich, D. Rugh, N. Steen, P. McMurtry, P. Elmer, S. Murray, M. Munson, J. Adams, C. Sargent.

**VPA Members Present:** P. Dechert

President D. Farley called the meeting to order at 1:16PM.

### AGENDA

Discussion about current legal cases in process by D. Rugh. Also discussed was the content of the JAM Golf Workshop held earlier on 3/20 at VLS.

**Announcements / Additions to agenda** – No new additions.

**Minutes of the November 21, 2008 and February 20, 2009 meetings** – S. Lotspeich moved that the 2/20 minutes be approved. P. McMurtry seconded. Minutes of 2/20/09 approved. Minutes of 11/21/08 to be reviewed at next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report (February 2009)** – Steve reported that we have done well in getting our dues in. The league will be providing him with an update on how many members have paid. When our CD comes up for renewal in August we can choose to invest more money in it at that time. M. Munson moved that the report be approved. Seconded by D. Farley. Treasurer's report approved.

### **Business**

Growth Center Program – The board is holding off on submitting the VPA letter to the board until currently proposed legislation has been dealt with. Polly offered to talk with Joss Besse about when they will provide the board with the information VPA submitted. There is concern that it might “slip through the cracks”. DHCA staff has suggested that there should be a GC Board retreat at some point in the future.

ACCD elimination status – Sharon reported that it is likely that the legislature will put together a summer study commission to review this proposal. It is unlikely that this proposal will be acted on this term. VAPDA has a summary if concerns that they have distributed. VPA will develop a position statement in the future.

2/23/09 MPG Advisory meeting – Attended by M. Munson, S. Murray and C. Sargent. D. Farley provided the board with an overview, additional input was provided by attendees.

3/17/09 Education and Training Collaborative meeting/ VLS 2009 Planning Commission Summer Retreat – D. Farley gave an overview of the Collaborative meeting. Peg Elmer is in planning to do a Development Review Training after the Planning Commissioner's Retreat this summer. The ETC is considering creating several topic papers for the purposes of educating DRB's. Funding is currently unavailable, but there is interest and ETC members are looking into possible sources. VPA will continue to be involved. Also at the 3/17 meeting there was a presentation about certification standards for planning commission members. Polly inquired as to whether or not anyone from VPA would like to be a representative to the ETC. Polly will ask Mike Miller if he would be interested.

APA CPC grant application – Peg was able to send out the CPC grant application with help from Polly. We should find out whether or not it will be awarded in the next few months.

Amend 2009 budget (travel expenses) – This task was actually moved on at our previous meeting.

Task Force on VPA's Future – The first meeting of the task force is on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at D. Rugh's office. The conference call in number will be available for members.

NRG grant application – Dana had a brief report on this grant. Deb Sachs has agreed to take the lead on the project. She is looking for VPA input on how we can move energy efficiency and renewable energy use forward through planning in Vermont.

Fall workshop on density/design – Work on this workshop needs to begin ASAP. Peg suggested we get some additional partners for this workshop. Dana reported that Sarah Hadd has volunteered to help organize the workshop. Other members should be asked to participate. A date, time and location needs to be set ASAP.

**Member's Business - None**

### **Committee/ Liaison Reports**

Legislative Committee – Current issues are growth centers. Sharon will consolidate all comments and recommendations from VPA members and will be submitting it to the LC for review. There does not appear to be much support for the bills in their current form.

The riparian bill is on the docket to be introduced. VPA has agreed to testify before committee on this bill. It is likely that it will not be addressed until next session.

[S99] Act 250 Changes coming out of the Smart Growth reform. This bill does not appear to have support at this point.

The permit reform bill should be coming out of Senate sub-committee very soon. Sharon reported that Brian felt that on the record review will not be included.

Meeting adjourned at 3:18

Next meeting Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> @ VLCT