Bennington County Regional Commission

MINUTES

Thursday – May 21, 2026

5:30 PM

Mount Anthony Country Club

180 Country Club Drive

Bennington, VT

Present: Andrew McKeever, Martha Cornwell, Nancy Shuttleworth, Mary Rogers, Bob Madeiros, Kim Hall, David McAneny, Donald Brodie, Shelia Kearns, Donald Campbell, John LaVecchia, Jr., Dani Delaney, Bruce Lierman, Judy Kniffin, Terry Findeisen, Dimitri Garder, Gordon Black, Jed Rubin, Andrea Bacchi, Linda Schmidt, Brian Lent, Dixie Zens, Nancy Henderson, Jessica Grimm-Lyon, Ali Zaiac, Anik Cepeda, Josh Fisette

BCRC Staff: Amanda Stevens, Callie Fishburn, Bill Colvin, Scott Grimm-Lyon, Jim Henderson, Samantha Page, Nick Zaiac

Guest Speaker: Mike Pieciak, Vermont State Treasurer, Marcus Aloisi, Treasurer's Chief of Staff

1. Commissioners and guests arrived at 5:30 and enjoyed a cash bar and food provided by the Mount Anthony Country Club.

2. BCRC Executive Director Bill Colvin called the meeting to order at 6:17pm, welcomed everyone, and provided some highlights of BCRC's work over the past year. He thanked the BCRC team for its commitment, competence, flexibility and camaraderie. Colvin also thanked BCRC commissioners for their support of BCRC's mission and work.

3. The 2026 BCRC Bongartz Award for Community Service was presented to Bruce Lierman of Bennington. Colvin made the following remarks when presenting the award:

   The Bongartz Award for Community Service has been awarded by the BCRC, beginning in 1997, to a person who has "demonstrated ideals, beliefs and excellence in community planning and service." The

award is named after one of the BCRC's founding members, Ferdinand "Nundy" Bongartz of Manchester, who epitomized those principles in his work for the town, region, and state over many years.
When one thinks of volunteerism, especially as it pertains to local and regional planning, it is virtually impossible to identify a better example than this year's Bongartz Award recipient. He began serving as a BCRC commissioner in 2006 and has served continuously since as BCRC's transportation special purpose commissioner.

He joined the regional transportation advisory committee that same year and has been active member of the BCRC Energy Committee and Regional Plan Advisory Committee. He also serves on the Bennington Planning Commission.

In 2022, he served as a founding member of the Bike Hub which returned a bike shop to Bennington, and which provides low-barrier access to bikes, ride safety training and camaraderie to cyclists and soon-to-be cyclists throughout the community. He clearly represents that lifestyle as a constant presence on the roads around town riding in his bright yellow attire.

It is emblematic of his unassuming style and commitment to community service that when I alerted the recipient that he had been selected by BCRC staff as this year's Bongartz Award winner, he responded with an email indicating he was honored but thought it had to be a mistake. I assured him the only mistake was that he was not recognized sooner.

It is my absolute pleasure to present the 2026 Ferdinand Bongartz Award to Bruce Lierman of Bennington.

4. Election: BCRC Officers. Colvin said that BCRC Executive Committee officers are elected every three years with 2026 being an election year. The BCRC Nominating Committee nominated Martha Cornwell of Shaftsbury to serve as Chair, Donald Campbell of Bennington as Vice Chair, Sheila Kearns of Sandgate as Secretary and James Salerno an Economic Development Commissioner as Treasurer. Each term is for three (3) years. Colvin called for any outstanding ballots and said an announcement of results would be made following the keynote address.

5. The keynote address was provided by Mike Pieciak, Vermont State Treasurer. Mr. Pieciak highlighted the work of the Treasurer's Office in finding creative uses of underutilized state resources to benefit communities throughout the state.

6 Colvin announced that there were fourteen (14) commissioners who voted in the election of BCRC officers. All votes were in favor of the proposed slate of officers – Martha Cornwell, Chair; Donald Campbell, Vice Chair, Sheila Kearns, Secretary; James Salerno Treasurer.

7. Jim Henderson announced that funding appeared likely that would lead to Egg Mountain becoming a Vermont State Forest. He provided background on the site and the project and thanked those at BCRC and the state who have been involved in the effort to preserve the historic 2700-acre property.

8. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Colvin
Director