Bennington County Regional Commission

Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2026

6:00 PM

Arlington Town Office, Arlington, VT
and via Zoom

DRAFT

Commissioners Present: John LaVecchia, Walter Klinger, Dana Rozycki, Joan Nash, Sheila Kearns, Dana Rozycki, David Conwill, Josh Fisette, Karl Strohmaier, Anthony Thompson, Dixie Zens, David McAneny, Katie Dixon, Matha Cornwell, Donald Campbell

Public Present: Beth Sturgeon, Michael Miller, Mark Rondeau

Guests: Nate Fowle

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes of July 16, 2026 meeting**
   Motion to approve by Sheila Kearns, seconded by John LaVecchia. Approved with two abstentions.

2. **Second Public Hearing – *Bennington Regional Plan***
   Colvin opened the public hearing, describing the regional plan development process to date and recapping the initial public hearing in July. Zaiac and Fishburn reviewed the changes made to the plan since the first public hearing and described the next steps should the plan be adopted. Staff then responded to questions from Commissioners and the public. The public hearing was closed.

3. **Vote to Adopt the Bennington Regional Plan**
   Colvin called for Commissioner votes on the question "Shall the *Bennington Regional Plan*, as drafted and proposed on August 12, 2026, be adopted?". He noted that results of the vote would be announced later in the meeting.

4. **Pownal Town Forest Update**
   Nate Fowle of the Pownal Conservation Commission and Pownal Parks and Recreation Committee provided an update on the Pownal Town Forest. He described the process leading to creation of a committee to oversee improvements at the forest, highlighted features of the forest, discussed the involvement of partner organizations and the

Bennington County Forester, and outlined proposed future improvements. He then responded to questions and comments from meeting participants.

5. **Results of Vote to Adopt Bennington Regional Plan**
   Colvin announced the results of the vote to adopt the *Bennington Regional Plan*. There were twenty-one (21) total votes. Fourteen (14) Municipal Commissioners voted in favor of adoption. Five (5) Co-Commissioners voted in favor of adoption. One (1) Special Purpose Commissioner voted in favor of adoption. One (1) Special Purpose Commissioner voted not to adopt. Colvin noted that adoption requires approval of 60% of the municipalities in the region. There are seventeen (17) municipalities in the Bennington region. Adoption requires approval of at least eleven (11) municipalities. With fourteen (14) municipalities (82.4) voting in favor, the *Bennington Regional Plan* was adopted. Colvin thanked the BCRC staff, Commissioners and members of the Regional Plan Review Committee for their work and support through the process of developing and approving the plan.

There being no other business from commissioners, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Colvin
Director

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