

1 **PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

2
3 **WEDNESDAY, June 12, 2019**

4
5 The meeting of the Project Review Committee was held at Northwest Regional Planning Commission in
6 St. Albans, VT. At 6:01 PM, W. Irwin opened the meeting.

7
8 **ATTENDANCE:**

9 Commission: Garrett, Harold ; Speer, Neal ; Steen, Colleen ; Charron, Claude ; Irwin,
10 William ; Voegele, Albin ; Lavoie, Ross ; LaRocque, Alisha .

11
12 Staff: T. Newton.

13 Guests: R. Noel – Town of Highgate Commissioner and B. KillKelly – Native Energy.

14
15 **Changes to Additions to the Agenda:**

16 T. Newton requested that the anaerobic digester application be moved to the top of the agenda.

17
18 **Project Reviews**

19 **Anaerobic Digester – Laroche Dairy Farm – 1881 Durkee Road, Town of Highgate**

20 *Project Details: Section 248*

21
22 B. KillKelly of Native Energy, the project developer, provided a basic overview of the project. He noted
23 the system is 44 kW and would be the first of its kind installed in the US (there is a similar system
24 installed in Canada).

25
26 H. Garrett asked about the impact of the project on water quality. B. KillKelly stated that the
27 byproducts from the digester can be used for bedding and for fertilizer. He continued by stating that
28 those operating digestors in Vermont are still studying the impacts of digested manure used for
29 fertilizer in terms of its impacts on water quality.

30
31 A. Voegele asked about how the electricity would be sold. B. KillKelly stated that the electricity would
32 be purchased by the VEPP, Inc. via the Vermont Standard Offer Program and then distributed to all
33 Vermont electric utilities on a pro-rata basis.

34
35 R. Noel stated that he would like the site to have a better access road to ensure that mud from tractors
36 and equipment on site do not adversely affect the public road. The Committee agreed and asked staff
37 to work with the Town of Highgate staff and the applicant to see if this issue could be addressed
38 outside the PUC process.

39
40 W. Irwin stated that he thought it would be useful to keep the NRPC Board and the Vermont Agency of
41 Agriculture informed of how the project is operating in terms of impact on water quality and on farm
42 operations. B. KillKelly stated that he'd welcome an opportunity to come back to the Committee or full
43 Board. The Committee agreed that a site visit to the proposed facility, once installed, could also be

1 interesting and beneficial if the Committee begins to see more of these facilities proposed in the
2 region.

3
4 *C. Steen motioned to find that the project does not have a substantial regional impact and is
5 conformance with the Regional Plan. A. Voegelé seconded. All in favor.*

6
7 **Public Comment**

8 None.

9
10 **Minutes**

11 *C. Steen moved to approve May meeting minutes. H. Garrett seconded. All in favor.*

12
13 **Terrance and Joanne Magnan – 3421 West Enosburg Road, Town of Enosburgh**

14 *Project Details: Act 250 Amendment - host a maximum of 12 special events from May 1 through
15 November 30 each year and to operate a rental business for events.*

16
17 T. Newton provided an overview of the proposed project. He noted that there was a previous permit
18 associated with the property for antiques sales on site and stated that he had concerns about the tent
19 site location within the River Corridor and Special Flood Hazard Area. The Committee discussed a
20 suggestion from the Agency of Natural Resources to add signage at the site noting the flood risk. W.
21 Irwin asked about local review of the proposal. The Committee reviewed the Municipal Impact
22 Questionnaire and the Town said the project would not impact their ability to provide fire and rescue
23 services.

24
25 *C. Steen motioned to find that the project does not have substantial regional impact, and is in
26 conformance with the Regional Plan. A. Voegelé seconded. All in favor.*

27
28 **Franklin Foods – East Street, Village of Enosburg Falls**

29 *Project Details: Act 250 – Preapplication request for comment. Multiple additions equaling
30 approximately 25,000 square feet.*

31
32 T. Newton provided an overview of the project. T. Newton noted possible connections to the
33 Pomerleau/Hannaford property to relieve traffic in the village. N. Speer stated that he'd like the
34 applicant to provide a traffic study to better understand the proposed change's impact on truck traffic
35 through the village. T. Newton noted he'd like more clarity about the location of stormwater treatment
36 on-site.

37
38 **Updates**

39 W. Irwin asked if staff could provide him a copy of the net-metered solar preferred site guidance used
40 by the Committee.

41
42 **Adjourn**

43 *H. Garrett motioned to adjourn. N. Speer seconded. All in favor. The Committee adjourned at
44 approximately 7:08 PM.*