



MINUTES

Annual Meeting of the BCRC

May 19, 2016

5:00 PM

Taconic Hotel – Manchester Village

Present: See attached list

A social hour was held from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM and dinner from 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM

BCRC-Vice Chair Meg Cottam welcomed commissioners, local officials, and guests to the meeting and recognized outgoing BCRC Executive Committee member Ed Shea for his many years of dedicated service to the Commission, Woodford, and the Bennington Region.

Cottam then announced results of the election of BCRC officers: Dan Monks (Chair), Meg Cottam (Vice-Chair), Suzanne dePeyster (Treasurer), and Janet Hurley (Secretary).

Elected interest group commissioners: Helen Fields (Local Food and Agriculture), Jonathan Ryan (Housing), Sheilah Printz (Public Health), Wayne Goodman (Energy), Donald Campbell (Conservation), and Greg Van Houten (Local Business). There has been a vacancy in the Economic Development position and Van Houten moved, seconded by Hurley, to elect Dina Janis as the new commissioner representing Economic Development interests. Motion passed unanimously.

Cottam then welcomed BCRC's newest municipal representative, Gail Acosta from Peru.

Cottam noted that with the change in BCRC officers, a motion needs to be passed that allows the Commission's officers to sign a corporate authorizing resolution giving power to the officers and staff to conduct bank business, as specified in the resolution. Motion to approve the resolution and authorize officers to sign by Hurley, seconded by Van Houten. Motion passed unanimously.

Remarks from the Executive Director, Jim Sullivan:

I promised everyone a little history as we celebrate the beginning of the BCRC's 50th year of service to the towns and villages of southwestern Vermont. There is a reason we are not celebrating the completion of BCRC's 50th year of service this year. In a newspaper article from March of 1966, it was noted that Bennington almost became the second county in Vermont to form a regional planning commission.....Most of the towns in the county had agreed to form a regional planning commission that year, but the initiative was vetoed by Manchester, which apparently felt that the \$571 annual cost to the town was excessive given that it already had its own plan.

Another concerted effort to get all of the municipalities in the region to join together to form a regional planning commission was undertaken in 1967, led by such luminaries as: Robert Graf of Rupert, Harvey Carter of Pownal, Douglas Tschorn of Sandgate, John Moore of Arlington, John Page of Bennington, and one Ferdinand "Nundy" Bongartz of Manchester. A series of meetings with local officials and civic groups was held in the winter and spring of 1967 at the Worthy Inn in Manchester – which happens to have been located right on this very spot. John Page, who many of you may remember from his time as county agent, state senator, and district environmental commissioner, led the meetings, arguing that a failure to plan cooperatively would lead to haphazard development, costly mistakes, and lost opportunities for economic development.

The idea was well received the second time around and the Bennington County Regional Commission was formally established later that year. The BCRC has grown and evolved over the past 49 years, and now includes programs in transportation planning, emergency management, environmental quality, and solid waste management, in addition to land use planning and community development. Of particular note is the Commission's recently expanded role in regional economic development brought about through our partnership with the Bennington County Industrial Corporation. We are delighted to have several members of the BCIC here tonight, including that organization's President, Dixie Zens.

Sullivan then introduced Patricia Moulton, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development, who spoke about recent legislative actions and efforts to improve the economy of southern Vermont, while applauding the recent collaboration between the BCRC and the Bennington County Industrial Corporation.

Sullivan introduced Seth Bongartz, who presented the BCRC's Annual Bongartz Award for Community Service to Barry Horst, long-time member and chair of the Bennington Planning Commission and a member of the Bennington Development Review Board.

The evening's featured speaker, Dr. William Moomaw, was introduced. Moomaw gave a presentation (to be posted on BCRC's website) on the science of climate change, current and future impacts on the region's environment and economy, and actions that have been taken, and can be taken, to address the problem while taking advantage of economic opportunities through energy conservation and renewable energy development.

After a brief question and answer period, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

ATTENDANCE
BCRC Annual Dinner Meeting
May 19, 2016

BCRC: Mark Anders
Bill Colvin
Stacey Eggsware
Jim Henderson
Mickey McGlasson
Allison Strohl
James Sullivan

BCRC	Gail Acosta	Peru
Commissioners	Judy Boehlert	Sandgate
	Donald Campbell	Bennington
	Philip Chapman	Rupert
	Meg Cottam	Glastenbury
	Suzy dePeyster	Sandgate
	Nancy Faesy	Dorset
	Bob Howe	North Bennington Village
	Janet Hurley	Manchester Village
	Dina Janis	Dorset
	Rick Kelley	Manchester
	Walter Klinger	Pownal
	John Lavecchia	Dorset
	Pauline Moore	Manchester
	Paul Myers	Peru
	Ed Shea	Woodford
	Greg Van Houten	Bennington

Guest Speaker: William Moomaw Emeritus Professor of International Environmental Policy and Founding Director
Patricia Moulton of the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy at The Fletcher
Secretary VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development

Legislators: Senator Brian Campion

Guests:	Leslie Addison	Brian Knight
	Paul Anders	Stephanie Lane
	Rosalie Anders	Brian Lent
	Zirwhat Chodhury	Dennis Madden
	Kayla Becker	Michael McDonough
	Kevin Bisaccio	Sandy McDonough
	Seth Bongartz	Colin Moore
	Chris Bongartz	Maddi Nagel
	Donald Brodie	Scott Printz
	Cindy Brownell	Liz Ruffa
	Nelson Brownell	Barbara Schlesinger
	Linda Chapman	Linda Sciarappa
	Bill Christian	Jay Sciarappa
	Robert Costantino	Timothy Scoggins
	Craig Powers	Maria Scully
	Thomas Dee	Bill Scully
	Valerie dePeyster	Gay Squire
	Jason Dolmetsch	Maryanne St. John
	Dennis Eggsware	Dan Strohl
	Bob Faesy	James Trimarchi
	Jim Hand	Nissa Walke
	Michael Harrington	Eric Scott
	Barry Horst	Dixie Zens
	Cora May Howe	
	Karen D.	
	Peter OBrien	