Community Development Committee
Minutes from meeting: August 9, 2018
Location: WRC Conference Room

Community Development Committee present: Tim Arsenault (chair), Lynn Barrett, Edie Mas, Stephen Dotson, Roger Turner, Robert McBride and Laura Sibilia
Staff present: Susan McMahon

Called to order 5:36 pm

1. **Introductions/Minutes Approval**
   The minutes of 14 June 2018 were approved with R. McBride and R. Turner abstaining from voting.

2. **Regional Plan Housing**
   The Committee discussed the comments from the 14th of June housing meeting. S. McMahon asked L. Sibilia to discuss what was learned from the CEDS focus group on housing. L. Sibilia felt that one important item was the need for all organizations to understand the housing programs out there. For example, bankers and realtors may not know about non-profit housing programs.

   S. McMahon handed out a spreadsheet that compares the main issues in the regional plan with regional, state and national studies. The point of the spreadsheet was to see if there were new issues to address in the plan. The Committee felt this could be helpful, but asked that it be simplified.

   S. Dotson discussed his work on developing a model tiny house community for a cold climate.

   T. Arsenault suggested and the Committee agreed that a role for WRC is to bring various organizations involved in housing together a couple times of year to see where there are opportunities to work on issues and projects.

   R. McBride asked about clarification of the resources that BDCC and WRC have for Community Development. L. Sibilia and S. McMahon explained that they work closely on their overlapping missions as it relates to community development. L. Sibilia and S. McMahon said they would meet to see how they can clarify to others.

   R. Turner had noted some comments on the current regional plan and said he would get them to S. McMahon.

3. **Vermont Agency of Human Services – Community Profiles**
   S. McMahon handed out a list of available data on the Vermont Agency of Human Services new [Community Profiles](#). She also handed out a chart of how Windham County compares to the State of Vermont on data indicators and pointed out the following areas where Windham County is worse:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>VT</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of children age 1-4 who have elevated blood lead levels</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Worse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of households that spend 30% or more of their income on housing</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>Worse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of population age 16 and older in workforce who are unemployed</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Worse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Committee discussed how these issues also related to housing.

4. **Next Regional Plan Topic Area**
   After a discussion the Committee felt that they would like to work on the Utilities, Facilities and Technology chapter.

5. **Update Announcement in Topic Areas**
   - **Brownfields:** S. McMahon updated the Committee that NEYT clean up has been completed, Saxtons River Park and Robertson Paper Mill brownfields clean up would begin soon, and Putnam Block loan agreement is in process. Assessment projects include sites in Guilford, Cambridgeport and Bellows Falls.
   - **Infrastructure:**
     - Water/Sewer – A forum on Water and Sewer was held on August 2nd. It is likely that WRC will be putting in a MPG consortium grant to continue the work on this issue.
     - Rich earth project – West Dummerston and Westminster West Villages were selected to work with on the Village Sanitation Pilot Project
   - **Economic/Community Development:**
     - Southern Vermont CEDS – L. Silbia updated the Committee that there will be 4-5 public meetings in September and the 1st draft will be available in December.
   - **Sibling Region:** S. Dotson updated the Committee that the Sibling Region subcommittee is in the process of being formed.

6. **Other Business/Next Meeting**
   Next meeting – September 13, 2018
   Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.