Community Development Committee
Minutes from meeting: 15 November 2012
Location: WRC Conference Room

Committee present: Gretchen Havreluk, Emily Kunreuther, Jenepher Burnell, Jane M. Purdy, Roger Turner and Lynn Barrett
Guests: Sue Fillion
Staff present: Susan McMahon and Cullen Meves
Excused: Norm Wright

Called to order 4:05 pm

1. **Introductions/Minutes Approval**
   The minutes of 20 October 2012 were approved as written.

2. **State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)**
   S. McMahon discussed that the Community Development and Natural Resource Committees have been asked to review the SCORP and submit combined comments by the public comment deadline (11/30/12). The following are the comments that were discussed at the meeting:
   - Many of the economic studies of recreation were old and may not be relevant or accurate today
   - Concern that the number of municipal recreational facilities shown for the Windham Region may not be accurate. It was not clear if this information includes school facilities as part of the municipal facilities.
   - Access to the Connecticut River is poor
   - The plan did not note that the Connecticut River Byway was a National Byway
   - There wasn’t an action plan to comment on.

A motion was made by G. Haverluk and seconded by J. Purdy that directed staff to draft comment letter and forward to Natural Resource Committee. The motion passed with four in favor with two abstentions. (The final letter as sent to Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation is attached).

3. **Community Development – Tropical Storm Irene**
   - *Status of Economic Development Administration (EDA) Disaster Recovery Grant application* – S. McMahon reported that we are still waiting to hear about the grant.
Status CDBG Disaster Recovery – L. Sibilia reported that BDCC submitted a grant for Windham and Southern Windsor Regions for business recovery. The grant was for $1 million and they expect to hear soon.

3. Update and Announcements in Topic Areas
   - Brownfields – S. McMahon updated the Committee that WRC will be submitting a $400,000 grant to EPA on December 3rd for the Windham Region Brownfields Reuse Initiative assessment program.
   - Housing – J. Purdy discussed the issue of the condition of rental housing in Bellows Falls.
   - Cultural and Historic:
   - Infrastructure
   - Recreation
   - Economic/Community Development: L. Sibilia updated the committee on the status of the Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategy and the development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Vital Economies has been selected to be the consultant for the CEDS and work will begin soon.
   - S. McMahon discussed that Working Lands Grants will be available soon.
   - Education
   - Human Services

4. Other Business/Next Meeting
   Next meeting December 13th and Paul Bruhn (Preservation Trust of Vermont) and Doug Cox (Arts Council of Windham County) will be at the meeting to present.

   Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.