



STATE OF VERMONT
General Assembly
Commission on Act 250:
the Next 50 Years

MINUTES – DECEMBER 7, 2018

Pursuant to 2017 Acts and Resolves No. 47, Chair Rep. Sheldon convened the Commission on Act 250: the Next 50 Years (Commission) convened on Friday, December 7, 2018, at 10 a.m. in the Ethan Allen Room at the State House in Montpelier.

Commission members present

Rep. Amy Sheldon, Chair
Rep. Paul Lefebvre

Sen. Christopher A. Pearson, Vice Chair
Sen. Richard McCormack

Advisors to the Commission or designees of advisors present

Diane Bothfeld, Dep. Secretary, AAFM
Chris Cochran, ACCD
Dan Dutcher, AOT
Peter Gregory, VAPDA
Ernie Pomerleau
Gerry Tarrant, VBA

Billy Coster, ANR
Elizabeth Courtney
Peg Elmer-Hough, VPA
Jon Groveman, VNRC
Diane Snelling, Chair, NRB

Staff present

Aaron Adler, Legislative Counsel
Ellen Czajkowski, Legislative Counsel

Faith Brown, Committee Assistant

Others present

John Brabant, VCE
Donna Barlow Casey, NRB
Jamey Fidel, VNRC
Evan Meenan, NRB
Randy Richardson, Vt. Trails & Greenways

Greg Boulbol, NRB
Brooke Dingedine
Cindy Locke, Exec. Director, VAST
Bruce Post
Annette Smith, VCE

Messrs. Fidel and Richardson and Ms. Locke testified on the issue of land use regulation of recreational trails and the status of ongoing discussions among their organization.

Ms. Smith presented recommendations to the Commission, including recommendations for public engagement prior to the filing of an application and for a land use panel to review for energy facility siting.

The Commission discussed tasks assigned to it by Act 47, including recreational trails, the process before the District Commissions, the structure of the Natural Resources Board, the interface between Act 250 and other permit processes and approvals, appeals, siting review of electric generation facilities, and forest products processing. The Commission also discussed requests received with respect to federally-assisted transportation projects and rural industrial parks.

During the Commission's discussion, it heard from various advisors, staff members, and other persons present.

The Commission also provided an opportunity for public comments. During this period, Ms. Smith provided additional testimony, and Mr. Post and Ms. Dingedine also testified.

The Commission adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Adler, Legislative Counsel