

From: Tim Scoggins [sbtim@jacksonresources.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2019 4:48 PM
To: Theresa Utton; Rebecca Buck
CC: Jim Sullivan (jsullivan@bcrcvt.org)
Subject: Funding for Regional Planning

Please accept the following testimony on the value of funding regional planning commissions:

I am Tim Scoggins, Shaftsbury Selectboard Chair.

Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC) is an invaluable resources for municipal government and a source of leadership for economic development. The Town of Shaftsbury contracts with them regularly for such things as updating our town plan, modifying our bylaws, and most recently, designing and executing a survey of broadband connectivity in our town. I almost always attend BCRC's monthly meetings, as well as their informational seminars, because I always learn something I need to do my job. Jim Sullivan, BCRC's director, is someone I turn to almost weekly with questions ranging from bylaws language interpretation to natural resources management. Were it not for BCRC's Bill Colvin, the Putnam Redevelopment Project in Bennington would not be happening. Putnam is the brightest light on our local economic scene in years. BCRC's Jonathon Cooper was instrumental in the just completed Southern Vermont Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). I can't imagine trying to run a small town like Shaftsbury without the help of BCRC.

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Tim Scoggins, Shaftsbury Selectboard Chair