

Approved Minutes
Vermont Community Investment Board
7/21/2025
Calvin Coolidge Conference Room and MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Members Present (13):

- ☒ Nate Formalarie (*Deputy Commissioner*), *alternate* designated by the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development
- ☐ Adam Grinold, representing the Regional Development Associations
- ☒ Jen Mojo, designated by the Secretary of Natural Resources
- ☒ Bruce Cheeseman, appointed by the Governor, representing local government
- ☐ Cathy Davis, appointed by the Governor, representing the Vermont Association of Chamber Executives
- ☒ Charlie Baker, alternate, designated by the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies
- ☒ Chip Sawyer, designated by the Vermont Planners Association (arrived 1:07pm)
- ☒ Jaime Lee, appointed by the Governor, representing the Vermont Natural Resources Council and the Preservation Trust of Vermont
- ☒ Kevin Chu, representing the Office of Racial Equity
- ☒ Laura Trieschmann, State Historic Preservation Officer
- ☒ Michael Desrochers, designated by the Commissioner of Public Safety
- ☒ Michael Gaughan, designated by the Vermont Bond Bank
- ☐ Michael McDonough, appointed by the governor, representing local government
- ☒ Gavin Boyle, (alternate) State Treasurer's Office
- ☒ Michele Boomhower, (Vice Chair) designated by the Secretary of Transportation
- ☒ Josh Hanford, designated by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Attending Community Planning and Revitalization (CP+R) Team Members (5):

Chris Cochran, Jeff Dube, Jacob Hemmerick, Susie Powers, and Jenni Lavoie.

Guests (5): Sandra Vitzthum, Town of Plainfield; Karl Bissex, Town of Plainfield; Arion Thiboumery, Town of Plainfield; Will Colgan, Town of Plainfield Planning Commission Chair; Pat Moulton.

1. Start of Meeting:

Michele Boomhower brought the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. Michele welcomed everyone to the meeting and facilitated introductions.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Board Agenda

There were no further additions or deletions to the board agenda.

3. Public Comment Period

Michele Boomhower opened the meeting to public comment; there were no public comments.

4. April 28, 2025, Draft Meeting Minutes

Gavin Boyle corrected the spelling of Peter Trombley's name in the "Members Present" section of the minutes.

Gavin Boyle made a motion to approve the April 28, 2025, meeting minutes, and Bruce Cheeseman seconded. All were in favor, none opposed, while Michael Desrochers and Gavin Boyle abstained. The motion carried.

5. Neighborhood Development Area Designation - 1

- **Town of Plainfield**

DHCD staff presented its findings that the proposed Neighborhood Development Area of Plainfield (population 1,200) meets the outlined standards, established criteria, and requirements for the designation. Staff found that the application is complete and explained how the designation would support the town's recovery from the 2023 floods by exempting from Act 250 a parcel on higher ground adjacent to the village, providing a location to rebuild homes outside the flood hazard area. The proposed designation also includes the former Goddard College campus, helping position the site for future investment and continued use.

Will Colgan, Chair of the Planning Commission for the Town of Plainfield, shared that the Town supports this designation to help develop new housing. He stated the designation is essential for the community to replace 27-30 houses lost during the 2024 flooding. The regional planning commission has confirmed Plainfield's Town Plan, which emphasizes upfront planning to make it quicker and easier to build homes in and around the village.

A board member inquired whether the future land use maps from the Regional Planning Commission [which will define the new designated areas] align with the designation maps. It was noted that the draft maps from the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission have not yet been released and will be made available soon.

Gavin Boyle made a motion to approve the establishment of the Town of Plainfield's Neighborhood Development Area. Charlie Baker seconded. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

6. Old Business / New Business

- Chris Cochran announced the Community Investment Board Bus Tour scheduled for August 7, 2025—a day-long visit to Windsor and Orange counties to see firsthand how State funding has helped communities achieve their local goals.

- At the September 22nd CIB meeting, board members will be trained in how to review the Regional Planning Commission's future land use maps as required by Act 181.

7. Adjourn

Kevin Chu made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chip Sawyer seconded. All were in favor. Michele Boomhower adjourned the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

The next Community Investment Board meeting will be in-person on September 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted, Susie Powers