

**Approved Minutes
Vermont Community Investment Board
3/23/2026
Calvin Coolidge Conference Room and MS Teams Virtual Meeting**

Members Present (14/16):

- ☒ Alex Farrell (*Chair*), designated by the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development
- ☒ Jonathan Cooper, designated the Regional Development Corporations, joined 11:11am.
- ☒ 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
- ☒ Christian Meyer, designated by the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies
- ☒ Chip Sawyer, designated by the Vermont Planners Association
- ☒ 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 (Vice Chair), designated by the Vermont Bond Bank
- ☒ Michael McDonough, appointed by the governor, representing local government
- ☒ Peter Trombley, (alternate) State Treasurer's Office.
- ☒ Matthew Arancio, 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 (2):
Jenni Lavoie and Susie Powers.

Guests (4): Brooke Dingledine, LURB; Adam Lougee, ACRPC; Farida Ibrahim, DED; Hannah Andrews, ACRPC.

1. Start of Meeting:

Alex Farrell brought the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Alex welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Additions or Deletions to the Board Agenda

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

3. February 23, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes

Christian Meyer made a motion to approve February 23, 2026, Meeting Minutes, and Chip Sawyer seconded. All were in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

4. Public Comment Period

Alex Farrell opened the meeting to public comment.

Adam Lougee thanked the board for reviewing Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Regional Plan and FLUA map and for sharing their comments.

5. Future Land Use Area (FLUA) Map Comment – Addison County Regional Planning Commission

Community Investment Board members reviewed and discussed the Addison County Regional Planning Commission's regional plan and FLUA maps. Board members commented that the legacy centers appeared to be well-served and consistent with existing development. Members expressed minor concern regarding water/wastewater mapping and walkability in remote areas, but overall approved of the map.

Board members reviewed comments for prior FLUA maps in an effort to assist in the comments for ACRPC, and settled on the following: The Community Investment board expects that the designation of Downtown and Village Center boundaries will represent all of the requirements set out in Act 181. Also, the Community Investment Board supports the ability for nearly every community to have at least one area of land designated as a Downtown or Village center, but the Community Investment Board is hopeful that no newly designated centers would implicitly detract from historic and legacy centers.

Chip Sawyer made the above motion, Bruce Cheeseman seconded. Ayes: Bruce Cheeseman, Cathy Davis, Chip Sawyer, Christian Meyer, Jaime Lee, Jen Mojo, Jonathan Cooper, Laura Trieschmann, Michael Desrochers, Michael Gaughan, Michael McDonough, Peter Trombley, and Alex Farrell, none opposed. Matthew Arancio recused. The motion carried.

6. Old Business / New Business Legislative Updates

Alex Farrell provided quick legislative updates noting two key bills that have potential to impact the work of the board; S.327 includes proposals to increase Downtown and Village Center tax credits, and S.325 proposes updates to Act 181, extending key deadlines for implementation.

Bus Tour 2026

Staff provided an update on the upcoming 2026 Community Investment Board bus tour. This year, the focus will be on various sites in the Northeast Kingdom. In 2027, the board will enjoy an overnight bus tour to Bennington County. Additional details to come in future meetings.

7. Adjourn

Chip Sawyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Christian Meyer seconded. All were in favor. Alex Farrell adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

The next Community Investment Board meeting will be on April 27, 2026.

Respectfully submitted, Susie Powers