

Draft Minutes

Vermont Community Investment Board

8/24/2026

Calvin Coolidge Conference Room and MS Teams Virtual Meeting

Members Present (16/16):

- ☑ Alex Farrell (*Chair*), designated by the Secretary of Commerce and Community Development
- ☑ Jonathan Cooper, designated the Regional Development Corporations
- ☑ 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, joined 11:03 a.m.
- ☑ 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, joined 11:05 a.m.
- ☑ Matthew Arancio, designated by the Secretary of Transportation
- ☑ Josh Hanford, designated by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns

Community Planning and Revitalization (CP+R) Team Members (2): Chris Cochran, Jeff Dube

Guests (3): Farida Ibrahim, DED; Brooke Dingleline, LURB; Janet Hurley, LURB

1. Start of Meeting:

Alex Farrell brought the meeting to order at 11:02 pm. and 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. Public Comment Period

Alex Farrell opened the meeting to public comment; there were no public comments.

4. July 27, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes

Laura Trieschmann made a motion to approve the July 27, 2026, meeting minutes, and Bruce Cheeseman seconded. Kevin Chu and Jonathan Cooper abstained. All were in favor, none opposed.

5. Future Land Use Area (FLUA) Map Comment – Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC)

Christian Meyer was recused by the Chair given his role as CVRPC's Executive Director.

Community Investment Board members reviewed and discussed CVRPC's regional plan and FLUA maps.

Board members asked questions of Mr. Meyer as the applicant including how the boundaries were delineated around Berlin's New Town Center. Others asked if all legacy centers were mapped.

Chip Sawyer made a motion; 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, and would expect that communities have been consulted on the matter of any portions of legacy centers that are not proposed to be part of the new designated center. The Community Investment Board is hopeful that no newly designated or expanded centers would implicitly detract from historic and legacy centers. Josh Hanford seconded. Christian Meyer was recused and did not vote. All were in favor, none opposed.

6. Old Business / New Business

LURB Minor FLU Map Amendments

Janet Hurley, Chair of the Land Use Review Board (LURB), walked Board members through LURB's proposed process for reviewing and managing minor amendments to Future Land Use Area (FLUA) maps. She also provided a general update on LURB's review of regional plans and maps to date. Hurley invited Board members to attend LURB's final hearing on the Rutland Regional Plan and FLUA maps on August 24.

Future Board Meetings

Having completed its Act 181 responsibilities to review and comment on regional plans and FLUA maps, the Board will move to a quarterly meeting schedule starting in 2027. Future meetings will be held in person to the extent practical.

7. Adjourn

Alex Farrell adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

The Board will review Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit scores at its September 28 meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Cochran