
CMRPC Physical Development Committee Meeting Minutes May 19, 2011

Present: Chair Tim Wheeler, Kathleen Keohane, Otto Lies, Bob Hassinger, Chris Baehrecke, and Peter Krawczyk
Staff: Vera Kolias
Absent: Al Lanni

Minutes: *MOTION* by Mr. Lies to approve the minutes of March 17, 2011. Seconded by Mr. Krawczyk, the motion carried unanimously.

General Updates:

Ms. Kolias reviewed the Community Development and Planning Department (CDAP) project list including completed work, work in progress, and regional planning projects. Of note, staff has completed the Housing Production Plan for the Town of West Boylston, and has begun the Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Shrewsbury and the Housing Production Plan for the Town of Upton. Significant efforts are being put forth on the Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plan, the 495 Compact, Brownfields program, and planning efforts for the towns of Northbridge and Sutton, among others.

The Committee discussed the use of LPA hours by member communities and how to encourage more participation in the region. Mr. Baehrecke and Mr. Hassinger noted their communities' use of LPA hours and those successful efforts. The Committee discussed the need to emphasize the value of CMRPC in the region and get more communities involved, including targeting the sub-regional delegates. The Committee asked for an annual tally of communities' use of LPA hours as well as which communities are able to receive additional hours through participation in CMRPC meetings and events.

Ms. Kolias updated the Committee on programs and projects under development including the HUD Regional Sustainable Communities Grant, the Economic Development Strategy, and the Brownfields Assessment and Clean Up grant programs.

Ms. Kolias reviewed various MEPA filings with the Committee for projects in the Blackstone Valley, Marlborough, and Westborough. She also discussed the upcoming Clean Energy Forum on June 29th.

Mr. Krawczyk and Mr. Lies updated the Committee on the recent Legislative Breakfast hosted by CMRPC. They both described a successful event with many legislators participating in a lively discussion with attendees.

Ms. Kolas discussed with the Committee CDAP's work on providing an Overview of the Master Planning Process. This effort was prompted by both the HUD Sustainable Communities work and requests from the Towns of Oxford and West Brookfield for assistance with their Master Plans. The Committee was very pleased with the direction of the overview and would like to see CMRPC pursue marketing it to encourage communities to engage in the Master Planning process. This will be a topic of discussion with staff and the Committee in the future.

Ms. Kolas discussed the two vacancies on the Committee and the possibility of reducing the Committee membership from nine to seven. The Committee decided to maintain the membership at nine, and continue to seek out additional participation, perhaps via a sub-regional outreach approach.

The Adjudicatory Board has an upcoming meeting to discuss a petition to discontinue a county road in Hardwick. Mr. Hassinger, who sits on the Adjudicatory Board, explained the process by which CMRPC "acts as the County" for such petitions.

The Next Meeting will be called by the Chair as needed, but no later than September.

MOTION by Mr. Hassinger to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Baehrecke, the motion carried unanimously.