

Approved by a vote of the Committee – June 27, 2012

CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2012

Present: Adam Gaudette, Shaun Suhoski, Kristen Garza (Quorum - yes)
Staff: Trish Settles
Absent: Peter Krawczyk, Kristin Wood
Guest: Leon Gaumond

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** This is the second meeting of the newly established CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee. A general round of introductions was completed with everyone present, each person stating their name and position.
2. **Vote on Minutes:** A vote on the minutes was preceded by a discussion and vote regarding officers. ***A nomination was made and seconded to elect Kristen Garza as the chair of the committee. All present voted to elect Kristen Chair. A nomination was made and seconded to elect Shaun Suhoski as the Vice Chair of the committee. All present voted to elect Shaun Vice-chair.***

A motion was made, seconded and all presented voted to approve the minutes of February 9 2012.

3. **Review of Responses to the Survey:** Kristen suggested we make Town a required field on the first question. The committee agreed to keep it open until April 30. If possible, it would be good to underline or highlight “unfunded mandates”. As it is presented, it might appear that the priority is anti environment, anti stormwater management, when it is really a matter of the unfunded mandates. The charts and tables presented in the draft survey summary were somewhat unclear as to which topics were priorities. The rating average did not seem to be an accurate measure of priority. Trish will figure out a better representation of the data.
4. **Develop draft priorities for consideration/adoption by CMRPC:** In light of the relatively small survey response count (20), the committee decided to table this agenda item until a later meeting.
5. **Discuss sub regional legislative efforts:** Shrewsbury Selectmen Kane is convening a meeting of area municipal leaders. Trish will attend to listen to their thoughts and concerns and to share with them the goals and efforts of the CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee.

6. **Legislative Caucus Breakfast event:** Trish shared information regarding how MAPC holds these types of events. They often held their legislative breakfasts within the sub-regions and are held at a variety of times during the year, some with a focus and some as open forums.

After some discussion, the committee agreed to host a legislative breakfast on Friday May 18th. Because of the timing and low likelihood that it will influence the budget or lead to new legislation, this event will focus on specific topics – based on survey results. The survey results will be shared with attendees. Transportation, Economic Development, and Chapter 90 early certification are three possible topics. At the forum we should have a list of priorities from the survey and which bills pending are related to each topic.

The agenda might include

- Introductions
 - The Legislative Affairs Committee
 - The Legislative Caucus
 - Municipal leaders and others
- Summary of the survey
- Pick one or two topics that are overarching (Transportation for example) and have a short CMRPC power point presentation on relevance and impact.
- Discussion

Trish will send out “Save the Date” emails and have Janet place a notice in the newsletter, each member will promote the event and the survey.

While this will be a great introduction of the CMRPC legislative affairs committee, we will look to do a fall event that will have more direct impact on budget and legislation.

7. **Committee Composition:** The committee as originally established by the Executive Committee was to include five (5) members including three (3) delegates or alternates of the Commission and two (2) members from municipalities.

The committee discussed wanting broader representation. ***A motion was made, seconded and all voted in favor of asking the Executive Committee to expand the membership from five (5) to seven (7) by adding one more CMRPC delegate or alternate and one more municipal representative.*** Leon Gaumond was the suggested municipal representative.

Leon, who has attended both meeting of the Legislative Affairs Committee, said he would accept the appointment if it was approved. Kristen Wilson was suggested as the CMRPC delegate. Trish will check to see if she is indeed a delegate.

8. **Set Meeting Schedule:** The next meeting will be Tuesday May 8th at 2:30pm at CMRPC.
9. **Announcements / Upcoming Meetings:** There were no announcements or discussion of related upcoming meetings.

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