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Approved by a vote of the Committee – October 28, 2015

**CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2015**

Present: Adam Gaudette, Jim Bates, Sherry Patch, Robin Craver, Leon Gaumond, Bob Perla (Quorum - YES)
Staff: Trish Settles with a brief appearance by Janet Pierce
Absent: Tim McInerney
Guests: Julie Jacobson, Auburn Town Manger

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:37.

2. Minutes of June 9, 2015

A motion was made by Leon Gaumond to accept the minutes of June 9, 2015. The motion was seconded. All present voted in favor and the motion passed.

3. Legislative Updates, Discussion, Requests for action

Julie Jacobson, Auburn Town Manager and a member of Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Legislative Affairs Committee was present to share with the committee some recent action taken regarding bills pending in the Massachusetts State House.

Julie has recently provided testimony on Beacon Hill in favor of the following bills:

- **H302/S219 – An Act to Promote Local Economic Development**

This legislation would create a program through which cities and towns could access technical assistance and competitive grant funding to advance local economic development initiatives. The program would be created and administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and would be open to any municipality in the Commonwealth.

Trish noted that this is consistent and supportive of our efforts with regard to economic development.

- **S220, An Act Relative to Marketing Prioritized Development Sites**

Senate Bill 220 would enable the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (MOBD), under the auspices of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, to create and develop an online database of available sites in municipalities that local officials identify as priorities for development or redevelopment for their respective communities.

Trish noted that this is consistent and supportive of our efforts with regard to economic development.

- [Senate Bill 1531, an Act relative to a municipality's right of first refusal of agricultural land.](#)

This legislation proposes to amend the timelines in Chapter 61A§14 of Massachusetts General Laws which pertains to the notification process in which a city or town has the option to exercise, waive or assign its right of first refusal of agricultural land which the property owner seeks to sell or use for non-agricultural purposes. This legislation would provide for a reasonable period of time for a municipality to conduct its due diligence and adhere to the requirements set forth in Chapter 61A§14.

This bill is opposed by the Massachusetts Farm Bureau.

Leon made a motion to request the CMRPC Executive Committee send a letter in support of H302/S219, S 220 and S 1531. The motion was seconded by Bob Perla and all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

The committee voted to support her position on each of these three bills and to request that the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Director to submit a letter on behalf of the commission supporting them as well.

While present Julie also provided an update on a bill of considerable concern H3665 Regarding Public Records Law. While debate on the H. 3665 was delayed from July, they expect that it will be taken up in the Fall session to be completed before the winter break beginning on November 18. The Legislative Committee feels that passage of this bill in its current state amounts to an unfunded mandate. ***Robin made a motion to support of the MMA's position on the revised bill. The motion was seconded by Sherry and all voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed.***

Trish will develop a memo for the Executive Committee requesting they take action. The memo will include Julie's testimony on S220, S1531, and H302/S219 and the Mass Farm Bureau memo relative to S1531.

4. Discuss Spring Legislative Event

On review of the Spring event, the committee suggested at future events that there be reserved seating for legislators. We should review the timing. There was some thought that legislators should get a chance to say a few words at the beginning of the event. Many have to leave early and don't get a chance to say anything in the current format.

The committee also suggested that we send thank you's to those who attended along with an on-line evaluation form.

Possible topics of the next breakfast event will be

- Engineering and planning
- Procurement
- Best practices models and Community Compact. Trish will get a list of signed compacts.

5. Discuss Creation of a new Legislative Priority Survey

We will release the next survey at the December 4th event with a link

6. Announcements / new business

Janet Pierce, CMRPC's new Executive Director, discussed her intention to hold a Town Manager's meeting before the next quarterly meeting on Sept.10th. There will be an open house with staff in between.

Committee appointments - Each member present (Tim McInerney was absent) agreed to accept a new appointment to the committee. However, since that meeting Bob Perla of Grafton has tendered his resignation effective September.

7. Next meeting -

September 22nd at 2:30pm

8. Adjournment.

A motion to adjourn was made by Leon at 4:00pm. The motion was seconded by Sherry. All voted in favor and the motion passed.