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**Approved by a vote of the Committee – April 10, 2013**

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**CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2013**

**Present:** Tom Gregory, Kristen Garza, Leon Gaumond, Adam Gaudette, Shaun Suhoski  
(Quorum - yes)  
**Staff:** Trish Settles  
**Guest:** Kathy Robertson  
**Absent:** Kristin Wood, Sherry Patch

**1. Call to order – 1:17pm**

**2. Review of the Minutes:**

***A motion was made, seconded and five voted to approve (with one abstention) the minutes of October 17, 2012.***

**3. November 16' 2012 Legislative Breakfast – review.**

- Great breakfast spread thanks in part to VHB's contribution
- Great effort by Shaun moderating the panel. Panelists were very knowledgeable. The timing worked out.
- Great general turnout.
- Would like to have had more legislators. Their low attendance may have been because of the events date relative to the elections.
- The group discussed whether we tried to cover too much or were the breath of topics related to unfunded mandates helpful.
- The set up of the room worked well.
- Kristen said the executive committee was pleased with the event.
- Trish said we received a nice thank you from Auditor Bump.

**4. 2013 Work Plan**

Trish shared MAPC's piece on Transportation Finance Recommendations and also highlighted some of Adam's efforts to promote legislation relative to Chapter 74.

Adam elaborated on his efforts and said that the process is complex. The group discussed that it might be useful to hold an event that educates town officials, board volunteers, and others about how the legislative process works in detail. This could be a good occasion to invite selected legislators to actually speak.

After much discussion, the group decided to hold such an event this spring. Leon will ask Senator Brewer (D) and Kathy will ask Representative Peterson (R) to speak. The event will be held on a Friday morning in April or May. They will be asked to speak about the legislative process with a target audience of town officials, board volunteers in Central Massachusetts.

In the fall, another topic chosen from the legislative priorities will be selected as a focus of the fall legislative breakfast. Two options discussed are the municipal relief through regional collaboration or something related to municipal health care reform or Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB).

We also discussed asking our legislators to tell us what their priorities are, what their areas of expertise are, what their backgrounds are, etc.

Kristen Garza will provide an update to the Executive Committee.

5. Next meeting date: March 8 10am at Spencer Town Hall
6. No further announcements or new businesses
7. Meeting adjourned at 3:09pm.

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