

New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions

Summary Minutes

Meeting of March 10, 2016

I. Call to Order

Chairman Glenn Coppelman called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Members introduced themselves as follows.

Tim Murphy, Larry Robinson, Elaine Levlocke (Southwest RPC); Nate Miller, Nancy Rollins (Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC); Kenn Ortmann, Victoria Parmele (Strafford RPC); Cliff Sinnott, Glenn Coppelman, Tim Moore (Rockingham RPC); Tim Roache (Nashua RPC); Barbara Robinson (North Country Council); Mike Tardiff, Steve Buckley (Central RPC); Sylvia von Aulock, Peter Griffin (Southern NH RPC); Becky Baldwin (staff).

Guests: Nancy Johnson, Legislative Consultant, Janet Langdell, Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative.

II. Minutes of February 11, 2016 Meeting

The minutes of February 11, 2016 were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

III. Featured Topic - Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative "The Little Blue Bus"

Tim Roache introduced Janet Langdell from the Souhegan Valley Transportation Collaborative who provided a presentation on "The Little Blue Bus" program. She highlighted the eight years that the service has been in existence in the Souhegan Valley and distributed a handout of the *Souhegan Valley Rides* newsletter. She explained that the project began as a grassroots initiative to provide affordable, handicap accessible, non-emergency medical transportation to the citizens in the Amherst/Milford area. In 2008 the local Boards of Selectmen were asked to participate in a 6-8 month pilot program that would provide citizens rides to medical appointments and pharmacies three days per week. A contract was initiated with the Nashua Transit Services and was subsidized by private donations, grants, and a small amount of local funding. In 2011 addition funding was obtained from the State Coordinating Council and the program was expanded to include the court system and shopping to the list of destinations. Tim Roache noted that the Nashua Regional Planning Commission became involved and provided assistance in dealing with federal regulation requirements. Janet Langdell reported that currently six municipalities are involved in the program that generates an average of 225 rides per month. It is anticipated that ridership will increase to 3,800 over the next year. Membership fees for participating communities are based on usage statistics. Although rates to towns have increased 22% this year due to decreased federal funding it is anticipated that \$15,000 will be generated through fund raising efforts. Tim Roache explained that his RPCs Regional Coordinating Council focuses primarily on this service. He added that people in his area have expressed a desire to have service expanded to Keene and Manchester which could provide an opportunity for regional collaboration. Victoria Parmele noted that this could serve as a good program for the rest of the state as well and Janet Langdell offered to provide copies of their program model to anyone who might be interested. Chairman Coppelman asked if they have reached out to other areas regarding expanded regional service and Janet Langdell noted they have begun conversations with the Contoocook Valley Transportation Company in the Monadnock Region. Chairman Coppelman asked if there were any volunteers to provide the discussion topic at the next

meeting. Tim Murphy volunteered to coordinate a presentation on active transportation that would include the complete streets and safe routes to school programs at some point in the future.

IV. 2016 Legislative Session

A. Legislative Breakfast Report

Chairman Coppelman asked for a report from those that attended the 2016 legislative breakfast sponsored by NHARPC on February 17th. Nancy Johnson reported that due to the legislative session schedule for the day the breakfast was not as well attended as it has been in the past. She added that in the future we will need to make sure the event is posted on both the House and Senate calendars. Kenn Ortmann reported that although there was a smaller attendance, a lot of good conversations with legislators took place. Tim Moore noted that those that attended did stop and speak to the NHARPC representatives rather than just pass through. Chairman Coppelman asked if we should consider doing it again next year and the general consensus was that we should. Nancy Johnson advised that the sooner we can pick a date the better. Steve Buckley asked if it makes a difference if it is a budget year or not and Nancy Johnson noted that it didn't because in a non-budget year you have elections that bring in new legislators. Kenn Ortmann asked if we should pick a date sooner rather than later for next year and Steve Buckley suggested either a week before or after the session break. Nancy Johnson said she would look into possible dates and report back at a future meeting.

B. Review of Legislative Sub-Committee Report

Chairman Coppelman explained that we will review the remaining bills that were previously identified by the legislative sub-committee that we did not have time to take action on at the last NHARPC meeting, beginning with SB 61. He noted that we would continue to use the NHARPC Legislation Review Process and Legislation Review Guidelines that were adopted at the February 4, 2016 meeting and it was agreed that we would remove any bills that have been identified as Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) from our list.

SB 61 - Relative to funding for the New Hampshire agricultural lands program:

This bill has been determined ITL and it was unanimously agreed to remove it from our list.

SB 146 - Relative to the regulation of blighted property:

Larry Robinson noted that this bill has passed both the House and Senate as amended. Steve Buckley noted that it will take effect in June of 2017. It was unanimously agreed to take no further action on this bill.

SB 175 - Relative to regulation of blighted property:

This bill has been determined ITL and it was unanimously agreed to remove it from our list.

SB 256 - Authorizing certain expenditures by the department of transportation:

This bill has been determined ITL and it was unanimously agreed to remove it from our list.

SB 311 - Relative to standards for radon in water:

Nate Miller noted that this bill is not central to our core functions. Steve Buckley suggested that we should still continue to watch this bill.

Motion: To watch this bill at this time.

Motion by Nate Miller, seconded by Tim Murphy. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 317 - Creating a special fund in the department of environmental services to be used for education of property owners on issues affecting waterways:

Nancy Johnson reported that this bill has gone to interim study and will not be moving on to the House.

Motion: To remove SB 317 from our list.

Motion by Nate Miller, seconded by Steve Buckley. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 333 - Relative to net energy metering:

Nate Miller noted that this bill has a companion bill in the House HB 1116. Tim Murphy asked if there is a chance the bills will be consolidated and Nancy Johnson said this bill has already passed the Senate.

Motion: To continue to watch this bill until such time it may be consolidated with HB 1116.

Motion by Kenn Ortmann, seconded by Larry Robinson. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 334 - Establishing a commission to study the planning functions of the office of energy and planning:

Nate Miller reported that this bill has passed the Senate and would give NH's RPCs two seats on the commission. Tim Murphy suggested that NHARPC submit a letter pointing out the merits of the bill. Kenn Ortmann agreed noting that it is better to point out the advantages or disadvantages of this type of legislation rather than supporting or opposing it.

Motion: To write a letter suggesting the merits of SB 334.

Motion by Nate Miller, seconded by Cliff Sinnott. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Coppelman asked who would write the letter of support for this bill and Tim Roache said that he would have Jen Czysz from his office prepare a draft. Tim Murphy asked when we should prepare the letter and Nancy Johnson said it should be ready to submit no later than the end of March.

SB 345 - Relative to the definition of agritourism:

Chairman Coppelman explained that this bill is more detailed than its companion bill in the House. He suggested that we write a letter of support for this bill because of our involvement in its drafting this past summer. Steve Buckley suggested we send the letter once the bill has crossed over to the House.

Motion: To write a letter of support for SB 345.

Motion by Chairman Coppelman, seconded by Nate Miller. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Coppelman volunteered to write the letter of support for this bill.

SB 359 - Relative to funding electric vehicle charging stations with municipal registration permits:

Motion: To write a letter of support for SB 359.

Motion by Tim Moore, seconded by Larry Robinson

Steve Buckley suggested we watch rather than support this bill. Tim Murphy noted it could be an opportunity to write an educational letter on the merits of the bill.

Motion defeated.

Motion: To watch this bill at this time.

Motion by Sylvia von Aulock, seconded by Tim Roache. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 362 - Requiring notice to planning boards of placement of signs on scenic byways:

Motion: To remove this bill from our list.

Motion by Tim Murphy, seconded by Steve Buckley. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 364 - Establishing a committee to study the feasibility of incorporating complete streets into the 10-year transportation improvement plan:

Larry Robinson noted that this bill has passed the Senate. Sylvia von Aulock suggested writing a letter of support for this bill. Tim Roache noted that it shouldn't be tied to the 10-Year Plan.

Motion: To write a letter to inform and point out the merits of SB 364 while also questioning the link to the 10-Year Plan.

Motion by Tim Murphy, seconded by Tim Roache. Approved by unanimous vote.

Tim Murphy and Tim Roache volunteered to write the letter to inform for SB 364.

SB 374 - Requiring the office of energy and planning to update coastal flooding trends:

Cliff Sinnott noted that this is an issue for a specific region rather than statewide.

Motion: To watch this bill at this time.

Motion by Steve Buckley, seconded by Larry Robinson. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 375 - Establishing the coastal marine natural resources and environment commission:

Kenn Ortmann asked if we should request representation on this commission and Cliff Sinnott suggested that this is outside of our area of expertise.

Motion: To watch this bill at this time.

Motion by Larry Robinson, seconded by Steve Buckley. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 376 - Relative to wildlife corridors:

Motion: To watch this bill at this time.

Motion by Barbara Robinson, seconded by Steve Buckley. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 380 - Establishing the drinking water and groundwater trust fund and establishing the New Hampshire drinking water and groundwater advisory commission:

Nancy Johnson reported that this bill has passed both the Senate and the House.

Motion: To remove SB 380 from our list.

Motion by Steve Buckley, seconded by Tim Murphy. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 383 - Establishing a commission to study the importance of hiking trails, trail maintenance, and New Hampshire's trail network:

Motion: To remove SB 383 from our list.

Motion by Tim Murphy, seconded by Larry Robinson. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 386 - Adding biodiesel to electric renewable energy sources:

Motion: To remove SB 386 from our list.

Motion by Nate Miller, seconded by Steve Buckley. Approved by majority vote with one voting in opposition.

SB 410 - Relative to an optional ban on plastic bags:

This bill has been determined ITL and it was unanimously agreed to remove it from our list.

SB 438 - Relative to the aesthetic maintenance of highway intersections:

Motion: To remove SB 438 from our list.

Motion by Kenn Ortmann, seconded by Nancy Rollins. Approved by unanimous vote.

SB 440 - Repealing the repeal of certain fees in the shoreland protection act:

Motion: To write a letter to inform on SB 440.

Motion by Cliff Sinnott, seconded by Steve Buckley. Approved by unanimous vote.

Chairman Coppelman asked who would write the letter to inform on SB 440. It was suggested that Jeff Hayes be contacted regarding the merits of writing a letter for this bill.

Chairman Coppelman conducted a quick review of the House bills that we had previously taken a position on and it was unanimously agreed to remove the following bills that have now been ITL'd from our list.

HB 1180 - Relative to the authority of towns to issue bonds for expansion of Internet service:

HB 1259 - Relative to liability for third party review of site plans:

HB 1275 - Relative to net metering capacity:

HB 1282 - Relative to the state building code:

HB 1291 - Eliminating the land use board, establishing an advisory board, and requiring approval of federal land acquisitions by the governor, executive council, and general court:

HB 1347 - Establishing a committee to study sharing the road with bicycles and motorcycles:

HB 1367 - Relative to the public utility commission's authority to implement measures to increase the reliability, cost effectiveness, efficiency, or resiliency of the electrical grid:

HB 1374 - Relative to rebates to ratepayers from the renewable energy fund:

HB 1412 - Relative to duties of the public utilities commission:

HB 1439 - Requiring regional planning commissions to file an annual report:

HB 1470 - Permitting additional site evaluation committee membership from towns or cities affected by an application:

HB 1472 - Relative to the siting of certain new pipelines and storage vessels:

HB 1483 - Relative to community renewable energy:

HB 1617 - Relative to funding for housing projects by the New Hampshire housing finance authority:

HB 1686 - Repealing the community heritage investment program:

HB 1691 - Making certain changes to the renewable portfolio standard:

C. Legislative Consultant Report

Nancy Johnson reported that both the House and Senate have been holding long meetings and bills are rapidly being scheduled for hearings. She noted the importance of watching the legislative calendar to make sure our correspondence is submitted in time for scheduled hearings.

V. NHARPC 2016 Annual Commissioner's Meeting

Nate Miller provided an update on the NHARPC Annual Commissioner's Meeting scheduled for May 12, 2016 noting that NH DOT Commissioner Victoria Sheehan has agreed to be our guest speaker. He added that the meeting announcement is being finalized and will be sent via constant contact to our commissioners. Tim Murphy added that we need to act quickly on getting the announcement out since we are within two months of the event and asked what Nate Miller needed from the other RPCs. Nate Miller said that he would need the names and contact emails for all of our commissioners provided in an excel spreadsheet format by the end of business on Monday, March 14th.

VI. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next NHARPC meeting would take place on April 14, 2016 at 1:00 p.m., following the RPC director's meeting.

VII. Other Matters

2020 Census:

Steve Buckley announced that the U.S. Census Bureau has begun preparations for conducting the 2020 Census and that NHMA is in the process of developing a webinar related to this which is tentatively scheduled for September 14, 2016.

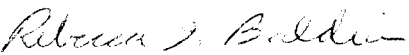
VIII. Public Comment

No public comments were made at this time.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rebecca I. Baldwin
On behalf of NHARPC