

New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions

Summary Minutes

Meeting of April 11, 2019

I. Call to Order

Chairman Steve Buckley called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members introduced themselves as follows.

Tim Moore, Glenn Coppelman, Barbara Kravitz, Tim Roache (RPC); Peter Griffin, James Vayo (SNHPC); Steve Buckley, Mike Tardiff (CNHRPC); Larry Robinson, Tim Murphy (SWRPC); Ed McLaughlin, Randall Clark, Steve Schneider (UVLSRPC); Donald Hamann, Jen Czysz (SRPC); Karin Elmer, Jay Minkarah (NRPC); Michelle Moren-Grey, (NCC); Becky Baldwin (staff).

Guests: Katie Nelson (CNHRPC).

Chairman Buckley introduced Margaret Byrnes, who is the newly appointed Executive Director of the NH Municipal Association (NHMA). Ms. Byrnes noted that she assumed her position in January and is pleased that most of the RPCs are members. She encouraged the group to let her know if they have any ideas on how to expand our partnership with NHMA.

II. Minutes of February 14, 2019 Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes of February 14, 2019 as submitted.

Motion by Larry Robinson, seconded by Peter Griffin. Approved by unanimous vote.

III. NHARPC Communications and Outreach - Update

Katie Nelson from Central NH RPC provided a visual overview of the NHARPC website including several updates that have been made. She reviewed the addition of a story map that was created by SNHPC that highlights items for each of the RPCs so visitors to the site can see what is happening in their region as well as others. She explained that Town and City articles and companion webinars are on the site to showcase NHARPC's focus on planning-related education. Karin Elmer suggested that the NHARPC mission and bylaws could be posted on the site. Chairman Buckley asked if the current NHARPC membership is posted and Katie Nelson replied that it is under the "about us" tab. Tim Murphy suggested that since the Association is focused on education there might be from time to time materials that could be added such as the manual that was developed by Nashua and Southwest RPCs regarding natural gas pipeline proposals. Ed McLaughlin asked how many people currently visit our website and Katie Nelson responded there are not that many at present. Glenn Coppelman noted that it is not the kind of site that will generate a lot of traffic because it appeals to a specific audience.

Katie Nelson reported that NHARPC has a Facebook page that we might want to consider making better use of. CNHRPC serves as administrator of NHARPC's Facebook page. Karin Elmer suggested that a Facebook page could be used in conjunction with the website and have shared information. Barbara Kravitz suggested considering posting various NHARPC event videos and photos. Tim Roache cautioned that if the Facebook page is going to be used there should be a policy developed regarding what gets posted. Chairman Buckley noted that establishing such a policy could be quite an undertaking. It was

suggested that staff could work with Central NH RPC to develop a policy that could be considered at a future meeting regarding postings to the NHARPC Facebook page.

Motion: To use the NHARPC Facebook page to post articles published in editions of Town and City magazine, also post upcoming events such as the legislative breakfast and commissioners convening and provide a link to the NHARPC website.

Motion by Jay Minkarah, seconded by Larry Robinson. Approved by unanimous vote.

Members thanked Katie Nelson for her presentation and she encouraged them to send any further comments and suggestions to her.

IV. FAST Act Reauthorization - Feedback

Chairman Buckley reported that he had received a request from Nate Miller of SNHPC to have him as Chairman, sign a letter that would be sent to Senator Hassan providing information on the FAST Act Reauthorization. A copy of the proposed letter was included in the agenda packet. Glenn Coppelman asked if it should be sent to other legislators as well. Tim Murphy explained that the request for information came from one of Senator Hassan's staff members due to the Senator's Committee placement and was sent to individual RPC directors. The directors felt that it might be appropriate to respond with a single letter representing all of their insight and it was suggested that it might be more meaningful if it came from NHARPC. Ed McLaughlin asked if the letter should be endorsed by each of the RPCs and Mike Tardiff responded that there will be other opportunities to weigh-in and right now a single letter from the Association would suffice. Tim Murphy pointed out a section of the draft letter that could be interpreted as suggesting that the State of Vermont appropriation be reduced. Jay Minkarah suggested leaving the letter as written since it is simply pointing out what the national formula created.

Motion: To authorize the Chairman to sign correspondence to be sent to Senator Hassan's staff regarding information on the FAST Act Reauthorization.

Motion by Glenn Coppelman, seconded by Peter Griffin. Approved by unanimous vote.

V. 2019 Legislative Session

A. Partner Updates

Tim Moore provided a brief report on bills that were discussed by the legislation coordination group comprised of members from NHARPC, NHMA, NHPA, and NH OSI. He noted that the group will not be meeting again unless there is further development regarding legislation they have been discussing.

B. Legislation of Interest

Chairman Buckley asked about the status of HB 542 which NHARPC had agreed to provide written correspondence. He reminded members that this bill is relative to establishing a grant program to support municipalities in updating their wetlands regulations. Tim Murphy explained that a letter was prepared but the bill is currently retained in committee. Staff is tracking this bill and if the status should change and the bill goes to the Senate, the letter will be sent to the appropriate committee.

Chairman Buckley referred to correspondence from Lisa Wilson that was included in the agenda packet requesting that action be taken on SB 43 and SB 306. Tim Murphy explained that the correspondence had been sent to the RPC executive directors and they felt it should be brought to the attention of NHARPC.

SB 43: Relative to establishing a commission to study barriers to increased land development in New Hampshire.

Tim Roache reported that he has spoken with Lisa Wilson and explained to her that the RPCs are anticipating having a seat on the commission if it is formed.

SB 306: Relative to establishing the housing appeals board.

It was noted that this bill has been laid on the table.

Barbara Kravitz suggested that Tim Moore watch these bills and if their status changes, that he let us know so we can decide if we want to take any action.

C. Legislative Breakfast - April 18, 2019

Staff member Becky Baldwin reported that the Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for April 18, 2019 from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the State House cafeteria in Concord. Tim Murphy noted that the event has been posted on both the House and Senate calendars and encouraged individual RPCs to contact their legislators to invite them to stop by during the event.

VI. Annual Commissioner's Convening - October 17, 2019

Chairman Buckley reported that he has been able to confirm the use of the NHMA Conference Room as the venue for the Annual Commissioner's Convening, scheduled for October 17, 2019 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. At a prior meeting it had been suggested that the featured topic for the event be "Planning for Recovery". Sylvia von Aulock had suggested a panel discussion similar to one held recently in her region as a possible approach. She had offered to check on the availability of the panelists relative to the convening.

VII. Other Matters

A. Town and City Articles

Chairman Buckley reminded members of the schedule for upcoming Town and City articles, noting that an article on the *Agricultural Toolkit* is scheduled for the May/June edition. He reminded CNHPC, SNHPC, and SRPC that the article they are collaborating on for the July/August edition, *Growing Younger*, has a deadline of May 8th. The September/October edition which has a deadline of July 10th is scheduled to run an article entitled *Public Health Planning* and is being drafted by several of the RPCs with SWRPC taking the lead. An article based on the proposed presentation for the Annual Commissioner's Convening relative to *Planning for Recovery* will be featured in either the November/December or January/February issue. Chairman Buckley asked members to begin thinking of topics for future articles that will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

B. NHMA Conference

Karin Elmer asked if the membership has decided if we will have a booth at the 2019 NHMA Conference. Chairman Buckley noted that since that happens in November information about the event is not yet available.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 13, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. Tim Murphy noted that this would be our Annual Meeting and several business items such as the NHARPC financial report, proposed budget, dues

assessment, staff and communications and outreach support, and election of officers will be on the agenda.

IX. Public Comment

No public comments were made at this time.

X. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca I. Baldwin
On Behalf of NHARPC