

New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions

Summary Minutes

Meeting of August 25, 2020

I. Call to Order

Chairman Steve Buckley announced that today's meeting would be conducted using a Microsoft Teams Meeting format and read a document entitled *Authority for Conducting a Meeting Electronically*. He announced that all votes would be conducted by roll call.

Chairman Buckley called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and asked members identify themselves, explain why they are attending today's meeting remotely, note where they are, and state if anyone is in the room with them. Members introduced themselves as follows.

Barbara Kravitz (RPC); Sylvia von Aulock (SNHPC); Steve Buckley, Mike Tardiff (CNHRPC); Tim Murphy (SWRPC); Donald Hamann, Jen Czysz (SRPC); Michelle Moren-Grey, (NCC); Jeff Hayes (LRPC); Patricia Higgins, Meghan Butts (UVLSRPC); Jay Minkarah, (NRPC); Becky Baldwin (staff).

I. Support of Affiliate Initiatives

A. NNECAPA Conference Sponsorship

Tim Murphy reported that NHARPC has received a request from NNECAPA to support their 2020 conference which is scheduled to take place virtually on September 30th and October 1st. He noted that the NHARPC budget that was adopted in June has an allocation of \$1,500 for conferences and support of affiliate activities. Last year we provided support to the NNECAPA/NHPA joint conference in the amount of \$500. Members reviewed the various levels of sponsorship for the conference ranging from \$250 - \$750 and what each level provides. Jay Minkarah asked if the NNECAPA conference is combined with NHPA this year and Jen Czysz replied that they will be held separately.

Motion: To sponsor the 2020 NNECAPA conference in the amount of \$250.

Motion by Tim Murphy, seconded by Jeff Hayes. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

III. Other Matters

Bike-Walk Alliance Support:

Sylvia von Aulock noted that the executive directors and RPC transportation planners have received a draft copy of correspondence from the Bike-Walk Alliance that they intend to send to NHDOT Commissioner Sheehan. She noted that she is bringing this before NHARPC today to see if we want to consider adding our endorsement to the correspondence.

A copy of the letter was displayed so members could refer to it during the ensuing discussion. Sylvia von Aulock explained that the Bike-Walk Alliance is requesting that NHDOT reconvene the Complete Streets Advisory Committee (CSAC) which has not met in the last eight months. Since that meeting it has been learned that the NHDOT engineer who was heading that effort has retired and, taking into consideration the current NHDOT hiring freeze, the Bike-Walk Alliance is concerned that important bicycle/pedestrian planning has been placed on hold.

Tim Murphy referred to the names on the bottom of the letter that are credited with supporting the Bike-Alliance proposed correspondence and noted that SWRPC's transportation planner informed him that he did not give his consent to have his name added. Mike Tardiff stated that the same was true for CNHRPC's transportation planner. Sylvia von Aulock noted that the Bike-Walk Alliance told her that the names of all of the members of the CSAC were placed on the correspondence to solicit their comments. Jen Czysz expressed that this is not the proper course of action and she would need to discuss the proposed correspondence with her policy committee prior to considering endorsement. She noted she would not want a letter such as this to be misconstrued by NHDOT as the RPCs trying to put pressure on them. She added that just because CSAC has not been able to meet doesn't mean that RPC's are unable to move forward with bike/pedestrian activities. Tim Murphy noted that NHARPC has not been asked to endorse the letter and Sylvia von Aulock responded that she thought that NHARPC might be able to endorse it on behalf of everyone if we were all in agreement. Meghan Butts asked if anyone has spoken with NHDOT regarding this concern. Sylvia von Aulock noted it was mentioned at a recent RPC executive directors meeting that was attended by NHDOT and they explained that they have other priorities at the present time. Jen Czysz suggested contacting NHDOT to make them aware of the intended correspondence.

Chairman Buckley acknowledged that we appreciate the work of the Bike-Walk Alliance but this appears to be something that should be addressed by the executive directors rather than NHARPC. Those in attendance agreed with his assessment of the situation. It was noted that the letter is dated August 24th and Sylvia von Aulock said that she would contact the Bike-Walk Alliance and make them aware of the position of the Association. She further noted that perhaps a representative from NHDOT could be invited to attend the next executive directors meeting to discuss CSAC further.

IV. Public Comment

No public comments at this time.

V. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca I. Baldwin
On Behalf of NHARPC