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**NHARPC Meeting  
Tuesday, December 3, 2024  
10:00a.m – 12:00 p.m.  
Horseshoe Pond Community Resource Center  
26 Commercial Street  
Concord, NH 03301**

**Agenda**

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| <b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>  | 10:00-10:05   |
| <b>2. Action items</b><br>a. Review and Approval of the September 25, 2024 Minutes   | 10:05-10:10   |
| <b>3. Review Legislative Service Requests:</b><br>Noah Hodgetts and Natch Greyes   | 10:10-10:40   |
| <b>4. Discussion Items</b><br>a. Commissioner Convening: Set a new date for the spring; topics, theme.<br>b. RPC Funding – BEA support, special legislation and project work<br>c. Ideas for future speakers | 10:40-11:15   |
| <b>5. NHARPC – NHMA Partnership</b><br>Town and City Articles & Webinars   | 11:15-11:30   |
| <b>6. RPC Updates</b>  | 11:30– 11:55  |
| <b>7. Public Comment</b>   | 11:55 - 12:00 |
| <b>8. Adjourn</b>  | 12:00         |
| <b>Upcoming Meetings: March 26, 2025</b>   |               |

**New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 25, 2024**  
**NH Municipal Association**  
**John B. Andrews Room**  
**25 Triangle Drive, Concord, NH**

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Chair Gerald Coogan called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and asked for introductions. Members present: Jerry Coogan, UVLSRPC; Jennifer Czysz, SRPC; David Kerr, LRPC; Mike Tardiff, CNHPC; Katrin Kasper, SRPC; Peter Griffin, SNHPC; Tim Moore; NHRPC; Steve Buckley, CNHRPC; Michelle Morin-Gray, NCC; Sandra Crystal, CNHRPC; Susan Neinberg, SNHPC; Bill Chaisson, UVLSRPC; Christine Robidoux, SWRPC; Todd Horner, SWRPC; Jay Minkarah, NRPC.

J. Coogan noted that a recent article in In Depth New Hampshire features an interview with Peter Griffin who talks about NH businesses along the rail lines.

**Members attending remotely:** Shanna Saunders, LRPC; Tim Roache, NHRPC;

**Guests:** Natch Greyes, NHMA; Miranda Augustine, NHMA; Heather Shank, BEA

**2. Action Items**

**a. Review and Approval of the June 26, 2024 meeting minutes**

Tim Moore motioned to approve the June 26, 2024 minutes as presented seconded by S. Griffin. There was no discussion. All members voted in favor and the motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

**3. Guest: Heather Shank, AICP Director, Office of Planning and Community Development, BEA.**

Heather Shank stated she is the newly appointed Director of the new Division of Planning and Community Development. H. Shank stated that programs under the new division include Office of Planning and Development, Broadband, Invest NH and Housing Champions.

The group discussed potential changes in funding for RPC's with the upcoming reorganization of the governor's office. H. Shank stated that it will be challenging for a state agency to advance a budget change and commissioners should speak to their state legislators to affect change. Heather explained she cannot testify in legislature unless directed to do so by Taylor Caswell; as a state agency it is not their role to advocate for legislation.

**4. Joint BEA/OPD-NHMA Land Use Guidance on New Legislation: Natch Greyes.**

N. Greyes highlighted several bills and expressed the importance of planners voicing their concerns and sharing their knowledge of zoning at legislative sessions.

Two bills have been filed to allocate 25 million dollars to affordable housing and 5 million to housing champions with 2 million of that going towards special programs. Budget writers have asked some state agencies to cut their budgets by 8%.

looking to 2025, it will be very tight budget year. Land use experts are leaving the state creating a void of professionals that legislatures rely on to help write legislation.

## **5. Discussion Items**

### **a. Commissioner Convening: Topics, Theme**

The convening date is December 3, 2024. The group discussed the theme for the Commissioner Convening which will be a housing and transportation nexus; multiple modes of transportation, housing and implementation.

Each RPC was asked to submit a paragraph that highlights their work on one or both topics to be compiled onto a handout.

Suggested discussions:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> leg-protection of open space.
- Rural Vermont bus service
- Disability Advocacy organizations to talk about challenges and successes.
- Discuss transportation challenges for seniors or people with disabilities for
- Unaffordable housing for young people
- The need for water supply infrastructure to support density

Patricia Quinn, NNEPRA that manages Downeaster services would be a potential speaker.

B. Chaisson, J. Coogan, M. Tardiff, and M. Moren-Grey volunteered to organize a subcommittee to help plan.

The convening will take place at the ..... and the SRPC administrative staff will organize the logistics and food and beverages. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. The quarterly business meeting will follow immediately after the convening at 12:30-1:30. The costs are split between the RPC's based on the number of people who have rsvp-ed.

### **b. Increased RPC Funding**

RPC funding will stay the same even after the elections. Alternatives to meet with legislatures to talk about more funding.

### **c. Legislative Breakfast in February: Go or No Go?**

J. Czysz stated that past legislative breakfasts have not been impactful, and a more meaningful approach would be to have a meet and greet with municipal and state government to provide an educational session. S. Saunders stated that the NH Planners associations agree that the legislative breakfasts have had minimal impact.

### **d. Offering Testimony on Bills Affecting RPCs**

J. Coogan suggested helping on the front line and providing guidance to legislators and make know the RPC's are a valuable resource. T. Moore, suggested writing a short letter or email to legislators to provide input. Tim Roache-stated they presented a simple 2 question survey to municipalities, what might be of interest/benefit legislation for local planning, looking for proactive input to put in front of legislators.

### **e. Housing: What's the Next Step for RPCs?**

J. Czysz said to keep plugging away at the HOP grants. M. Tardiff suggested focusing on engagement and incremental improvements. B. Chaisson suggested the use of visual aids as an educational resource. Compile resources into a folder on the NHARPC website.

**f. NHMA Annual Conference: NHARPC presence– staff a booth.**

Conference is the same as other conferences. The consensus was to skip it.

**6. NHARPC – NHMA Partnership**

**a. Town and City Articles & Webinars**

Miranda Augustine joined the meeting. J. Czysz stated that since the last NHARPC meeting, the directors compiled a new list of articles. The group was in consensus that the list looked good.

**7. RPC Updates**

Todd Horner stated that SWRPC held a round table with volunteer planning board members in Gilsom. Biggest takeaway that this meeting needed to happen, like minded folks in the same room, trouble shooting for one another. Will have a follow up meeting in Temple.

David Kerr, LRPC, Laconia school property, executive council acted on the issue-approved. A residential -where will the cars go?

**8. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**9. Adjourn**

With a motion from Bill Chaison and a second by Katrin Kasper and all members voting in favor, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

DRAFT