



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee —MINUTES

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| Date & Time: | Thursday, October 13, 2016/ 5:00 p.m. |
| Location: | JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street Greenfield, MA – Shared Meeting Room |
| Facilitator: | Bill Perlman, Chair |

Representatives Present:

- Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected Representative
- Sam Lovejoy, Regional Planning Board Representative
- Bill Martin, Council Appointee, Greenfield
- Kevin Fox, Colrain Representative

Staff Members Present:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Rebekah Boyd, Administrative Services Coordinator
- Bob Dean, Director of Regional Services

Regrets:

- John Paciorek, Regionally Elected Rep

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA:

1. Adopt 9/8/16 minutes

Bill P. opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Sam L. moved adoption of the minutes of 9/8/16. Kevin F. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Egypt Road, Whately, Road Action Continuation

Sam moved to reopen the Egypt Rd, Whately, Road Action hearing. Bill seconded. Opened at 5:31 p.m.

Bob Dean reported that Whately will not be able to construct anything as yet.

Sam moved a continuation to December 8 meeting. Kevin seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Sam moved closure of the road hearing. Bill seconded. Unanimously passed.

3. Franklin County Emergency Communication System (FCECS) Update

Bill P. reported that the FRCOG Finance Committee would like to be part of the process of discerning how best to move forward on repairing or replacing the damaged Erving shelter. Bruce Beliveau suggests FCECS might be able to use a spare surplus exterior cabinet outside and purchase a lean-to shelter roof to install over it. The FCECS oversight committee will look into costs.

Meanwhile two companies — Green Mountain Communications and Beltronics — responded to the maintenance contract RFP for FCECS towers and equipment. The oversight committee met and chose

Beltronics, which has been under contract since Oct 1. The new maintenance vendor understands the system, as he used to work with Bruce.

4. Transit Center parking

Linda updated the committee on the evolution of parking changes and policies at the Transit Center and surrounding area. The FRTA is paving their new staff parking area and a number of short-term spaces for use by their staff and transportation center patrons next week. Designated short-term spaces will cost nothing for 30 mins, but drivers will be required to use the pay-and-display ticket box in the lot for longer parking stints and the lot will be monitored by Greenfield parking attendants. The FRTA will retain revenue from the pay-and-display, and Greenfield will retain the ticketing revenue.

FRCOG currently has 11 staff that use Greenfield parking, but would prefer to move to the Zaccheo lot since the city just announced its new parking plan which further narrows staff parking options and increases costs. Soon the lot across the street will be meter-only, with no annual permitting. The lottery for Hope Street parking, which has risen to \$400 a year from \$250, is always full Linda reported, making it hard for staff to find a parking spot, even if they've leased a space. The Zaccheos have confirmed that the FRCOG can lease all 7 of the spaces being vacated by FRTA but will need to take the FRCOG visitor spaces as well to meet staff needs. Linda said it might be possible to increase the stipend for Executive Committee members, should they need to park here during peak hours.

Members acknowledged the difficulty of employees not having a space, noting that once the courthouse renovation is complete, parking challenges will multiply. They discussed the possibility of park and ride shuttle service to the Transit Center.

5. Holiday scheduling

FRCOG has a floater holiday the Friday after Thanksgiving. Because no employee plans to work that Friday (November 23), Linda proposes we announce that we will be officially closed the Friday after Thanksgiving. Members agreed, with Sam L. cautioning that Linda talk with Pat Auchard to plan ahead for payroll and warrant prep challenges. Linda told members that because Christmas falls on a Sunday, employees will have Monday the 26th off.

6. Updates and Announcements

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

Bill P. reported that he spoke with Bill Powers in Rep. Richard Neal's office regarding the onerous FERC process and the work of the towns and their advocates in response to the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline. Powers said Congressmen Neal didn't support the pipeline. Bill told Powers that he never-the-less missed Neal's interest in and support for the Franklin County towns through which the proposed pipeline was to run. Rep. Jim McGovern's office wants to organize a group effort to push FERC to implement changes.

William B. Allen Room

Linda invited members to the William B. Allen Room dedication on October 27, at 2 p.m. FRTA's Tina Cote has asked it be a joint dedication. Linda welcomed Executive Committee members to speak about Bill, who was the County Engineer and on the Regional Planning Board for 20 + years.

FRCOG 20-Year Celebration

Linda reminded the committee that the FRCOG's 20-year anniversary is coming up this July, suggested that it should be marked in some way.

7. Business Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance

Rural Policy Commission

The state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced significant changes to the CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) programs that were not good to rural communities, Linda announced. The agency gave RPC members in attendance 1 week to review these changes and to offer new and different ideas. Linda worked with Jim Masik, Claire Higgins, and Alice Boyd, who manages CDBG on behalf of small towns. The group crafted a letter in response to the changes. (See handout). The DHCD thanked them for their helpful feedback, saying they are considering the changes suggested. The RPC was concerned that infrastructure projects would trump social service projects. They also were troubled by restrictions to multi-year grants and the changes to the scoring of applications.

Bill M. moved adjournment. Sam L. seconded the motion. The meeting closed at 6:11 p.m.

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- 9/8/16 minutes
- Letter to Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay re: *Rural Policy Commission Opportunity to Offer Recommendations to Meet CDBG Goals*, dated October 6, 2016.