



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin Regional Planning Board Executive Committee Minutes

September 12, 2016

*John W. Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street
2nd Floor Library, Greenfield*

Attendance

FRPB Executive Committee Members

J. Lund, Chair
T. Miner, 2nd Vice Chair
J. Basford
T. Cady
G. Walker
T. Hutcheson

FRCOG Staff

Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning & Development

Actions

J. Lund called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. The FRPB Executive Committee reviewed the minutes for the previous meeting.

The FRPB Executive Committee reviewed the agenda items for the September FRPB meeting including presentations on Last Mile Broadband and the Millers River Watershed project. Also requested were updates on the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility FERC Relicensing, Zoning Reform and the FERC permitting process.

The FRPB Executive Committee discussed potential topics for upcoming FRPB meetings including Zoning enforcement & Non-Criminal Disposition, Sharing Economy (e.g. Air BnBs), and Brownfields.

The FRPB Executive Committee received an update on the Draft letter outlining the deficiencies of the FERC process and providing suggested changes. The letter has been approved by the FRCOG Executive Committee and sent to our federal Congressional delegation. The Draft letter on the State Energy Bill sent to the FRCOG Executive Committee was tabled given the recent passage of the Energy Bill.

Community meetings have been completed for the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP) project and Draft State legislation to establish a Special Designation for the 21-town region has been prepared and submitted to our local legislative delegation. All eleven towns in Franklin County have provided letters of support. The FRCOG and other agencies working on the MTWP have been invited to Washington D.C. to give a presentation on the project to the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

With respect to the relicensing process for the Northfield Pumped Storage facility and the Cabot Station generators, T. Miner noted that the summary of the Causation Study Report has been issued by First

Light. The study concludes that the Pumped Storage Facility is only causing 4% of the erosion. T. Miner believes the study does not correctly evaluate the significant impacts of the Pumped Storage Facility on streambank erosion. He expects to meet with FRCOG staff to discuss next steps and possible funding needed to hire experts to review and possibly refute the findings of this study.

The FRPB Executive Committee discussed the FRPB meeting schedule and will consider changes at their next meeting. The FRPB Executive Committee discussed moving to only electronic mailings of the agenda and minutes each month.

Votes

The minutes of July 11, 2016 were moved by T. Cady. G. Walker seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

The FRPB Executive Committee approved by consensus sending agendas and minutes only by electronic mail unless a FRPB members requests a hard copy mailing. This change will start in October with members notified of the change in September.

G. Walker moved to adjourn. T. Hutcheson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.