



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Executive Committee —MINUTES

Date & Time:	Wednesday, June 9, 2016/ 4:30 p.m.
Location:	JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street Greenfield, MA – Shared Meeting Room
Facilitator:	Bill Perlman, Chair

### Representatives:

- Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected Representative
- Sam Lovejoy, Regional Planning Board Representative
- Bill Martin, Council Appointee
- John Paciorek, Regionally Elected Representative

### Staff Members:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Kat Allen, Partnership For Youth

### Regrets:

- Kevin Fox, Colrain Representative

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA:

### 1. Adopt 5/11/16 and 4/14/16 minutes

Bill P. opened the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

**Sam L. moved that the committee adopt the amended minutes of 4/14/16. Bill M. seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

**Sam L. moved that the committee adopt the amended minutes of 5/11/16. Bill M. seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

### 2. Whately Road Hearing Continuation

**Sam moved to open the Whately Road hearing at 4:33. John Paciorek seconded.**

Linda said Whately is asking for another continuation as they currently have less professional help with a current opening in the town administrator position.

**Sam moved a continuation to Thursday, August 11, at 5 p.m. John P. seconded. Sam made a motion to close the road hearing. John P. seconded. Unanimously passed.**

### 3. Broadband update

Linda reminded members of their recent discussion of the pros and cons of Bill Ennen becoming a FRCOG employee. Bill later called and said he felt there was some possibility that the work he plans to do could fail, and would prefer that FRCOG not go down with him if that were the case. He will be

employed by EOHED and can use FRCOG offices, said Linda. He will consider that but wants an office in an underserved town.

Linda described the recent town meeting action in New Salem in which voters decided to pass over the article to pay their FRCOG assessment for the coming year until staff came to speak to them regarding services provided. She explained that the reason for one townspeople's frustration — and his earlier town meeting motion to not pay the FRCOG bill at all — was based on his feeling that the Mass Broadband Institute's efforts to bring broadband to the region were inadequate and that the FRCOG had not done enough to help. Linda said she will happily go speak with the town.

#### **4. Pipeline final thoughts**

With the blessing of the Executive Committee, Linda and Peg will draft a letter to Congress to report that the FERC process drastically needs improvement, to offer possible changes, and volunteer ways to rethink the schedule. The current process involves huge sums of money and volunteer time, members agreed.

Sam reported on Wendell's process with DPU filings.

#### **5. Marijuana ballot question**

In preparation for the forthcoming ballot question on the legalization of marijuana, Kat Allen presented an abbreviated PowerPoint slide show on the topic.

Kat said although marijuana has been proven to be an effective drug for certain conditions, benefits of legalization for recreational use must be carefully weighed against costs, particularly in light of the considerable risks of use to the adolescent brain. She briefed the committee on the scientifically-proven detrimental effects of habitual use, such as addiction, a decrease in IQ points, and a six-fold increase in the chance of developing schizophrenia and psychosis. Perceptions of community use and the availability of pot influence teen habits as much as does actual use and availability. If pot is legalized, she said, use goes up and the perception of risk goes down.

Kat suggested the committee, Franklin County municipalities, and voters all consider the following regulatory issues when imagining legalization for recreational use:

- Minimum legal sales age
- Use in public
- Driving under the influence
- Marketing and advertising
- Packaging
- Types of products allowed (smokable, edible, drinkable, and so on)
- Corporate influence on rollout and consumers

The committee discussed the issues of law enforcement responses and the possible inherent biases therein, and the challenges of regulation on local and state levels. They explored possible FRCOG actions, which included education of the community (particularly parent groups and schools), and the possibility of the Executive Committee — and the Council — taking a stand on the ballot question. They

encouraged FRCOG staff to continue their efforts at education among parent and school groups and decided to further consider the issue at the next meeting.

Kat agreed to send the longer Power point to all members.

#### **6. Business Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance**

**John P. moved adjournment. Sam seconded the motion. The meeting closed at 5:34 p.m.**

#### **Documents Distributed:**

- Agenda
- 5/11/16 and 4/14/16 minutes
- Boston Globe article dated March 4, 2016: *Mass Should not legalize marijuana* by Charlie Baker, Maura Healey, and Martin Walsh
- *Recreational Use of Marijuana Initiative Petition*, April 2016 Position Statement of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.