



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee —MINUTES

Date & Time:	Thursday, August 11, 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
- John Paciorek, Regionally Elected Representative
- Kevin Fox, Colrain Representative

Staff Members Present:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Rebekah Boyd, Administrative Services Coordinator

Regrets:

- Bill Martin, Council Appointee

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA:

1. Reorganize

Bill Perlman opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Kevin F. made a motion that the committee considers having the current slates of officers continue in their roles. John P. seconded.

Kevin F. nominated Bill Perlman for Chair. John P. seconded.

Kevin F. nominated John P. for Vice Chair. John P. seconded.

Kevin F. nominated Sam L. for Secretary. John P. seconded.

Kevin F. moved to close the nominations. John P. seconded.

Kevin F. moved election of the slate of candidates. John P. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Adopt 6/9/16 minutes

Sam Lovejoy moved that the committee adopt the minutes of 6/9/16, as amended. John P. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. Whately Road Action Continuation

Sam moved to reopen the Whately Road hearing at 5:06 p.m. John Paciorek seconded.

Linda reported that Whately has not completed the purchase of the property on which the new section of road will be situated.

Sam moved a continuation to September 8. John P. seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Sam moved closure of the road hearing. John P. seconded. Unanimously passed.

4. Review and endorse letter to Congress about improving FERC process

Staff drafted a letter to Congress to report that the FERC process needs improvement, to offer possible changes, and to volunteer ways to rethink the schedule. The current process, the letter said, and committee members agreed, involves huge sums of money and volunteer time. Linda estimated the cost was \$50,000 for the FRCOG.

Sam wondered if the letter should be exclusively from the FRCOG and refer only to FRCOG costs or, alternatively, if it should include the cost to the towns as well. Linda explained that staff sent their letter to town officials as a template to assist them in writing individual town letters, but added that if FRCOG wanted to pursue writing a collective letter, that would be fine. She suggested staff could also go to MA, NH, and NY regional planning agencies to broaden the response to the FERC process, if the committee so desired. John P. and Sam L. opined that the time to send the letter is now.

John P. moved to authorize and send the letter. Sam L. seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.

5. Review and endorse letter to state delegation about amendments to new energy legislation

Sam reported that the Franklin Regional Planning Board Executive Committee asked that Peg draft a FRCOG letter listing that board's suggested amendments for Energy Bill No. 4568. Although the bill has already passed, the Planning Board Executive Committee wondered if it would be prudent to send it nevertheless, said Sam.

Executive Committee members discussed the usefulness of moving forward with the letter immediately or waiting until the next legislative session. Consensus was that it made more sense to congratulate the lawmakers now and wait until the issue is back on their table to send the letter.

6. Business Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance

Linda reminded the committee that they had planned at an earlier meeting to reconsider whether to take a stand on the marijuana legalization ballot question. She asked how members were feeling about the ballot question and whether they wanted to bring Partnership For Youth's (PFY), Kat Allen back to further discuss the issue. The committee bandied about the pros and cons of issuing a press release, the reasoning behind why the Executive Committee would take a stand on one ballot question and not another, and the risk of media and word-of-mouth misrepresentation if a position paper was released, as has been the case with other initiatives recently.

Linda reminded members that FRCOG participates in the Opioid Task Force, and that (PFY) works to minimize teen substance abuse, which is the reason PFY thought the Council might want to make a statement regarding the legalization of marijuana. Bill suggested taking a look at all the ballot questions and possibly then making a decision about which to react to. The committee then tabled the issue.

Members discussed the possibilities that will arise this December when the committee's regionally elected position is to be vacated by longtime FRCOG Council member, John Paciorek.

John P. moved adjournment. Sam seconded the motion. The meeting closed at 5:42 p.m.

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- 6/9/16 minutes
- DRAFT letter to State Legislators re: Energy Bill No. 4568
- DRAFT letter to Federal Legislators re: FERC Process for Gas Pipelines
- DRAFT recommended steps in FERC Regulatory Process for Gas Pipelines