



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin Regional Planning Board— *DRAFT MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, January 25, 2018 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Location:	Hampton Inn, 184 Shelburne Road, Greenfield, MA 01301
Facilitator:	Jerry Lund, Chair

FRPB MEMBERS

- Dana Roscoe**, Sunderland Planning Board
- John Baronas**, Deerfield Planning Board
- Tom Miner**, At-Large Shelburne
- Micki Paddock**, At-Large Shutesbury
- John Ryan**, At-Large New Salem
- Jennifer Gross**, Wendell Select Board
- Thomas Hutcheson**, At-Large Greenfield, FRPB Executive Committee,
- Tom Johnson**, Shelburne Planning Board, Alternate
- Jonathan Lagrèze**, Colrain Select Board
- Charles Olchowski**, At-Large Greenfield, FRPB Executive Committee
- Mike Shaffer**, Erving Planning Board
- Joseph Strzegowski**, Conway Planning Board
- Gisela Walker**, Charlemont Planning Board, FRPB Executive Committee

FRCOG STAFF: **Peggy Sloan**, Planning & Development Director; **Maureen Mullaney**, Transportation & GIS Program Manager II, **Ann Dunne**, Administration.

GUESTS: **Shawn Rising**, Tighe & Bond, **Richie Davis**, Greenfield Recorder

1. Introductions	Jerry Lund, FRPB Member
Jerry Lund convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. A round of introductions followed.	
2. Review and Approval of November 02, 2017 FRPB Minutes	Jerry Lund, FRPB Member
Gisela Walker moved to approve the November 02, 2017 minutes as presented. John Ryan seconded. Motion passed by a majority. 2 abstentions.	
3. Presentation on Transportation Planning Projects – Electric Vehicle Charging Station Study, Passenger Rail, and Complete Streets	Maureen Mullaney, Transportation & GIS Program Manager II

Maureen Mullaney presented the results of the electric vehicle charging station study.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) conducted a study in 2017 to assess the current demand for electric vehicle charging stations in the region, and to determine if additional charging stations are needed. The transportation industry is targeted with reducing carbon emissions, and this project remains high on MassDOT’S priority list.

Electric vehicles can be classified into three primary categories:

- Hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs).
- Plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PEVs).
- All electric vehicles (EVs).

The majority of charging stations are located on the North/South I-91 corridor, with fewer charging stations available on the Route 2-East/West corridor. There are eight charging stations in the area, with thirteen total ports.

The MasseVIP Program was designed to (a) encourage companies to include EVs in their fleet, and (b) to target employers with 15+ employees to provide charging stations for employees. The use of EVs has increased from 500 to 5,000 vehicles over the past 5 years.

Passenger Rail:

Mullaney announced the proposed expansion of the Vermonter Service to include two additional trains in the morning and two at night, allowing a daily round trip service from Greenfield to NYC, plus one more round trip at the weekend. MassDOT has agreed to fund the pilot program. Ridership continues to increase, and additional services are planned between Greenfield and Springfield. The expansion of services between Springfield and New Haven is due to begin in May 2018.

Complete Streets:

Mullaney outlined the status of the Complete Streets work in Franklin County.

The goal is to provide safe travel for all modes of transportation. The Complete Streets program is supported by MassDOT, and was launched a few years ago. The funds are used to improve sidewalks, intersections, footpaths etc.

Criteria for communities to participate include:

- Attend a MassDOT training session.
- Pass a Complete Street Policy.
- Complete and submit a Prioritization Plan to MassDOT for approval.

The eight Towns currently participating are at various stages in the process. More outreach to the Towns will take place to encourage participation.

4. Presentation on the Regional Brownfields Program	Peggy Sloan, FRCOG Shawn Rising, Tighe & Bond
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P. Sloan reviewed the FRCOG Regional Brownfields Program.

The goal of the program is to clean up and redevelop brownfields sites. Over the years, the FRCOG received \$2.8 million in competitive grants from the EPA Brownfields Assessment Awards Program. Brownfields Assessment Grants are important to support brownfields clean up, redevelopment and reuse. To date, sixty seven (67) sites in 21 Franklin County towns have been assessed or cleaned up through the Brownfield Program. The Brownfield Steering Committee was established to oversee the program and select sites for inclusion.

Members include representatives from:

- Participating Franklin County towns, Community Action, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Greenfield Savings Bank, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, Franklin County Housing & Redevelopment Authority, MassDEP, and EPA New England.

Shawn Rising outlined the phases of an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and the Site Reconnaissance (ESA) process. When all of the environmental considerations are evaluated, it provides information to the Town or property owner to address the issues. If a clean-up is needed a remediation plan can be prepared to outline the clean-up steps and provide a cost estimate. The goal is the clean-up and reuse or redevelopment of the property.

Sloan noted some of the recent Brownfield Sites that benefited from this program:

- Streeter Property, Bernardston
- East Main Street, Millers Falls
- Former Usher Mill site, Erving
- Former Ramage Paper Mill – Wood Structure, Monroe

The status of the EPA assessment grant is as follows:

- All funds to assess sites with hazardous substances have been obligated.
- Funds remain to assess sites with petroleum products.

In November 2017, FRCOG submitted an application for a \$200,000 EPA grant to conduct assessments on sites potentially contaminated with hazardous substances

5. Update on FERC Relicensing of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility and Other Planning Updates (Recreational Marijuana)	Tom Miner, FRPB Peggy Sloan, Planning Director, FRCOG
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T. Miner presented the update on the FERC Relicensing of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility.

FirstLight completed their studies late last year, and FirstLight and stakeholders have been pursuing a settlement agreement, which is still ongoing. Once FERC accepts the license application as complete, the interested parties will have a brief period to file a motion to intervene to have standing in the license review and decision-making. FERC will initiate an environmental review of the project in accordance with NEPA, the National Environmental Policy Act. The current license expires at the end of April 2018, and it is likely there will be an extension of the current license, perhaps for a year or more. Tom acknowledged the critical role of the FRCOG in preparing materials on behalf of the affected Towns. K. Noake McPhee and the FRCOG staff created a draft template for a “Motion to Intervene,” for Towns to submit as part of their request to participate in the renewal and review process.

The FRCOG and the CT River Conservancy are convening a brainstorming meeting of stakeholders, landowners and professionals to come up with the basic outlines of a River Management Plan to propose as mitigation for unavoidable project impacts. The plan would take a holistic view of what is the appropriate way to minimize/mitigate effects of project operations on the banks and to take into

account that rivers naturally erode over time. Ideally, the River Management Plan would cover all 5 hydro projects up for relicensing (3 in VT/NH and 2 in MA), and address the restoration and enhancement of river functions and ecological attributes, including habitat and riparian areas. T. Miner reported that a Shortnose Sturgeon, a federally protected species, has been found in the CT River near the Vernon Dam. As a result, FERC has denied FirstLight's request for a temporary amendment to its current license to use the extra water storage capacity in the upper reservoir.

Tom informed the Planning Board that, after more than 20 years involvement with oversight of the Northfield Mountain hydroelectric facilities, he is stepped down as chair of the CT River Streambank Erosion Committee and as FRPB's representative on the FERC relicensing. The Board thanked Tom for his many years of dedication and commitment to this project.

P. Sloan gave an update on the Adult Use Recreational Marijuana legislation, and noted that the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) will hold a public hearing session at the FRCOG Offices on February 06, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. The CCC has issued regulations to clarify the law. Several Towns have adopted a temporary moratorium while others are working to determine what uses and locations are appropriate for their Town and drafting possible zoning changes. Peggy asked for feedback on the draft PowerPoint, as the final product will be available to Planning Boards wanting to conduct outreach in their communities.

6. Nomination and Vote for J. Blyth for FRPB Executive Committee.	Jerry Lund, Chair
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T. Miner moved to accept the nomination of Julia Blyth as a Franklin Regional Planning Board Executive Committee member. Tom Hutcheson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

J. Blyth will replace J. Rockwell, as she is moving out of the area.

7. Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting/Adjourn/Public Comment	Jerry Lund, Chair
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J. Lund expressed his gratitude to FRCOG staff for the letter of support he received on the passing of his spouse.

T. Hutcheson moved to adjourn the meeting, J. Strzegowski seconded. Vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 07:55 p.m.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda, 1/25/2018
- FRPB Minutes, November 02, 2017 – DRAFT
- Electric Vehicle Charging Stations handout
- Adult Use Recreational Marijuana Draft PowerPoint
- FRCOG Regional Brownfields Program
- Status of Complete Streets work in Franklin County – 11/28/2017
- Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility notes

The next meeting will be held on March 22, 2018. Copies of documents are available. Please contact Liz Jacobson-Carroll at ljc@frcog.org or 413-774-3167 x101.

Respectfully submitted,
Gisela Walker, Clerk - Franklin Regional Planning Board