



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Executive Committee —MINUTES

Date & Time:	Thursday, April 12, 2018/ 5:00 p.m.
Location:	FRCOG Offices, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA – Room 218
Facilitator:	Bill Perlman, Chair

### Representatives Present:

- Jay DiPucchio, Regionally Elected
- Kevin Fox, Council Appointee, Colrain
- Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected
- Jim Basford, FRPB Appointee

### Staff Members Present:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Rebekah Boyd, Admin Services Coordinator
- Bob Dean, Director Regional Services
- Claire McGinnis, Finance Director

### 1. Review and adopt 3.8.18 Executive Committee minutes

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

**Jay D. moved adoption of the 3.8.18 minutes. Kevin F. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### 2. Continuation of Public Hearing RE: Petition for Hawley Middle Road Discontinuance

Bill P. opened the public hearing at 5:02 p.m. to further consider discontinuance of a section of Hawley’s Middle Rd. Bill reviewed the history of the petition hearing and his understanding of the facts presented heretofore:

- Middle Road is an unpassable county road which runs through the Hawley State Forest.
- A 2017 earmark passed to repair the road. DCR was the recipient.
- DCR petitioned to have the road discontinued so they would have ownership before the repair.
- DCR is ready to begin the project and has committed \$1.5m to the project.
- DCR and the town of Hawley have a signed maintenance agreement.
- The town sought help from Rep. Paul Mark to be “held harmless” by the state regarding Chapter 90 funding, which the Town could lose due to the transfer of ownership. Rep. Mark will help them try to come to some resolution regarding the potential loss of Chapter 90 funding. He suggested the town have faith in his efforts to find a solution and support the discontinuance so that DCR can spend state money to fix Middle Road.
- Hawley is currently unwilling to extend said faith and has contacted Bob Dean by email expressing opposition to discontinuance until a solution is found to the loss of Chapter 90 funding.

Bob Dean expressed his desire to continue the hearing for another month, relaying that Paul Mark would like to get special legislation put into the house budget by May 1. Bob suggested that drawing up a new petition later would be costly.

The Committee weighed the facts and decided public convenience and necessity has been established and will support Rep. Mark's Chapter 90 efforts.

**Jay D. moved to discontinue the section of Middle Road in Hawley, delineated by the gate at the intersection of South and Middle roads to the south and the northern boundary of the Hawley State Forest to the north. Jim B. seconded. Motion passed unanimously, with Kevin Fox abstaining.**

The matter resolved, the public hearing was closed at 5:20 p.m.

### **3. Request for permission to move a building across a county way**

Jon Lowe, of 8 Woodard Rd in Greenfield, requested permission to move his house several hundred feet down Woodard (a county road) to 20 Woodard Rd. In a letter to Bob Dean he stated that it will take no more than 30 minutes to move the house — of which, roughly 10 mins will be spent on the county road — and that the house will be moved at first light. *(See letter and aerial shot of road with house-move outlined.)*

Members discussed the presence of curbing and trees which might prove problematical.

**Jay D. moved to approve the request by Jon Lowe to haul his house down Woodard Rd. between its old lot and new foundation, notwithstanding any other permission that must be secured from any other party. Jim B. seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.**

### **4. Designate Executive Committee as Economic development District Board**

Linda reminded members of their commitment at a recent meeting to become an Economic Development District (EDD) Board. Following that meeting, staff member Jessica Atwood took the idea to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee. That board felt the Executive Committee stepping into the EDD role was a good plan. The existing EDD dissolved itself and the Executive Committee must now appoint itself as the EDD.

Jessica will return in May to present the draft CEDS and again in June for final approval. This process will recur annually.

**Jay D. moved to appoint the Executive Committee as the Economic Development District. Kevin F. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

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

#### **Greenfield Library**

Linda believes it might be a conflict of interest to have a newspaper photo taken of her in support of the building of a new library in Greenfield, even if doing so as the chair of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, and not representing FRCOG. A state program will fund 50% of the cost of building the

new library should Greenfield get the grant, she explained. Kevin F. advised against it as other Franklin County towns are competing for the grant.

**Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership**

Legislation for the MTWP has cleared the House of Representatives. The legislation was amended to add more expertise in the areas of air quality and carbon storage to the Oversight Committee and language was added that no funding will be used for a pellet manufacturing facility. No money is attached to the bill.

**State Budget Update**

*Governor's Budget includes:*

- \$2 million for Efficiency & Regionalization Grants
- \$2.4 million for DLTA
- \$2 million for Community Compact

*House Budget includes:*

\$4.8 million for all 3 programs

Linda said that because the Governor initiated the E&R and CC programs, some are worried that DLTA will not be funded. We will be advocating for an amendment to the House budget, she added.

**Finance Director**

Bill took the opportunity to officially welcome the new Finance Director, Claire McGinnis, to the FRCOG.

**Kevin F. made a motion to adjourn. Jim B. seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.**

**Documents Distributed:**

- Agenda
- 3.8.18 Executive Committee minutes
- *Permission to Cross* Letter to Bob Dean from Jon Lowe, dated April 10, 2018
- Aerial photograph of Woodard Road