



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Executive Committee — *MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, July 12, 2018/ 5:30 p.m.
Location:	FRCOG Offices, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA – Room 218
Facilitator:	Bill Perlman, Chair

### **View Attendees** (*Occurring at 4:30 p.m., prior to the hearing/meeting of the Executive Board*)

*FRCOG Council Executive Committee:* **Kevin Fox**, Council Appointee, Colrain Rep; **Jim Basford**, Regional Planning Board Rep; **Bill Perlman**, Regionally Elected Rep; **Jay DiPucchio**, Regionally Elected Rep; **Bill Martin**, Council Appointee. *FRCOG Staff:* **Bob Dean**, Director of Regional Services; *Guests:* **Jeanne Golrick**, Millers Falls resident; **Walter Ramsey**, Montague Planning Department; **Tracy Miner**, Obear Construction Representative; **Peter Golrick**, Millers Falls resident

### **Hearing/Meeting Attendees**

*FRCOG Council Executive Committee:* **Kevin Fox**, Council Appointee, Colrain Rep; **Jim Basford**, Regional Planning Board Rep; **Bill Perlman**, Regionally Elected Rep; **Jay DiPucchio**, Regionally Elected Rep; **Bill Martin**, Council Appointee. *FRCOG Staff:* **Bob Dean**, Director of Regional Services; **Rebekah Boyd**, Admin Services Coordinator; *Guests:* **Tracy Miner**, Obear Construction Representative.

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

Bill P. opened the meeting at 5:33 p.m., welcoming all.

### **2. Public hearing for a petition for alteration of East Main Street county layout in Montague**

Bill P. opened the public hearing at 5:33 p.m. The committee dispensed with the reading of the notice. At the last meeting the board received the petition from Montague’s Robert Obear, of Obear Construction, to alter the 2003 county layout to allow for the porch at 38 East Main Street to be extended to the end of the building. He hopes to restore the building to its early 20<sup>th</sup> century grandeur, thereby adding to its value and improving the downtown Millers Falls community. Tracy Miner, representing Mr. Obear, provided some plans of the proposed project, which were examined by all members at the preceding viewing. The Montague Planning Board submitted a letter of support.

Bob D. explained that the 2003 layout action established the county road sidelines at the face of all buildings at the back edge of existing sidewalks, but allowed for construction of a Town-approved streetscape project and also allowed for existing porches, stairs, railings, ramps, etc., to remain within the county right of way. The petition requests a layout alteration to allow for the existing porch to be extended to cover the entire front width of the existing building. The committee is thus deciding whether or not to alter the right of way to allow for a porch extension; no changes to the sidelines of the county layout are required or requested.

Kevin F. asked if the committee was in any way responsible for ensuring accessibility. Consensus was that the committee had no responsibility regarding those laws, that these issues were the

responsibility of the town and would more appropriately be considered as part of the permit review process when the property owner applies for a building permit.

With no formal objections to the petition received either in person or in writing at the public hearing, the committee felt they were ready to adjudicate the petition immediately.

**Kevin F. moved that common convenience and necessity requires that the prayer of the petitioners be granted and that the Executive Committee hereby alters said highway under the provisions of Chapter 82 of the Massachusetts General Laws, by amending the 2003 county road layout recorded in the Location of Highways Book 6/page 229 to allow for the expansion of the front porch at the property of 38 East Main Street in the Town of Montague. Bill M. seconded the motion, which passed 4-0 with Jay D. abstaining as a resident of Montague.**

The committee read the Order of Alteration prepared by staff.

**Jim B. moved that the committee sign the Order of Alteration. Kevin F. seconded. The motion passed 4-0 with Jay D. abstaining as a resident of Montague.**

The Executive Committee signed the order (Jay D. abstaining) and the hearing closed at 5:48 p.m.

### **3. Review and adopt 6/14/18 Executive Committee minutes**

**Bill M. moved adoption of the 6.14.18 minutes. Kevin F. seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.**

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

#### **FCECS**

Bill P. reported that VTC passed the 911 surcharge. The Franklin County Emergency Communication System (FCECS) committee will do its own study **((of what?))**, following the state's study. That board will attempt to control the number of radios that have to be paid for by the state/by towns. Prior conversations have revolved around equipment and maintenance cost sharing with state, but the FCECS board will argue against that idea.

#### **Letter Opposing a Citizenship Question on the Federal Census**

The Committee read the letter drafted by Linda D. and Bill P. opposing the newly added citizenship question on the forthcoming census questionnaire. *(The deadline for feedback is August 7 — before the committee meets again.)*

Bill reported that if the board were to send the letter, it would not be alone in its objection. Opposition to the question is based on the belief that people who are not citizens will not fill out the form. However, all government grants and local aid is based on population. Each person included on the census in MA represents \$2,300 in federal aid, he said, making it important that everyone living in Franklin County fills it out.

The committee discussed sending the letter at length, but with widely varying views and many unanswered questions regarding the reason for the inclusion of the citizenship question on the census, consensus was not met to send the letter, and the item was dropped.

**Bill M. made a motion to adjourn. Jay seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.**

**Documents Distributed:**

- Agenda
- 6.14.18 Executive Committee minutes
- FRCOG Executive Road Action Protocol
- Petition from Bob Obear for alteration of the East Main Street county layout in Montague
- Arial photograph of front of building and adjacent sidewalk
- Photograph of existing building and a shot of the building circa 1920
- Plans of proposed porch extension and project submitted by Obear Construction
- Notice of View and Hearing: #RA-2018-01
- Letter in support of the county layout alteration from the Montague Planning Board
- Order of Alteration