



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin Regional Planning Board— *MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, June 28, 2018 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Location:	JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA – First Floor Conference Room
Facilitator:	Jerry Lund, Chair

FRPB MEMBERS

- Jerry Lund**, Chair, Leyden At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Gisela Walker**, Clerk, Charlemont Planning Board, FRCOG Executive Committee
- James Basford**, Orange At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Ted Cady**, Warwick Planning Board, FRPB Executive Committee
- Jennifer Gross**, Wendell Select Board
- Thomas Hutcheson**, Greenfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Kenneth Miller**, Ashfield Planning Board
- Thomas Miner**, 2nd Vice Chair, Shelburne At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Charles Olchowski**, Greenfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Nan Riebschlaeger**, Wendell At-Large
- Dana Roscoe**, Sunderland Planning Board
- Mike Shaffer**, Erving Planning Board
- Joseph Strzegowski**, Conway Planning Board
- David Travers**, Heath Select Board
- Chuck Washer**, Shelburne Select Board
- John Wheeler**, Shelburne Planning Board

FRCOG STAFF

Peggy Sloan, Planning & Development Director; **Liz Jacobson-Carroll**, Administrative Services Assistant; **J. Atwood**, Economic Development Program Manager; and **Maureen Mullaney**, Transportation/GIS Program Manager II.

PRESENTERS/GUESTS

- Lindsay DeRoche**, MA Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable;
- MJ Adams**, Community Development Administrator, Town of Greenfield
- Eric Gilmour**, Citizen
- Cheryl Handsaker**, Charlemont Broadband Committee

1. Introductions	J. Lund and FRPB Members
J. Lund convened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. A round of introductions followed.	
2. Review and Approval of May 24, 2018 FRPB Minutes	G. Walker, FRPB

T. Cady moved to adopt the **May 24, 2018 minutes**, **T. Hutcheson** seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously, with **D. Travers** abstaining.

3. Review and Approval of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Report	J. Atwood, FRCOG
--	------------------

Following up on the May FRPB meeting, J. Atwood summarized significant changes made to the final draft of the third update to the 2015 CEDS plan. The final draft will be posted on the website tomorrow morning and will be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration Region 1 office on June 29, 2018. Based on public comments received since the document was released and presented at the May FRPB meeting, the report has been updated to:

- Further emphasize the need for broadband access throughout the region.
- Underscore the fact that while unemployment is low, underemployment remains significant.
- Include a map of census tracts now certified as Opportunity Zones.
- Reference an expanding healthcare and social assistance sector, and leadership in addressing substance abuse disorders.
- Highlight the funding challenges facing rural schools (inadequate funding for transport, rising costs, low enrollment).
- Stress economic resilience in the 2020 CEDS report by including the outcomes of current action items and addressing emergency economic planning.
- Note an increase in rail service by 2019 due to the launch of increased passenger rail service north of Springfield starting next year.

T. Hutcheson moved to adopt the 2018 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Report, T. Cady seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

T. Miner stated the importance of this report as an economic guide for the region, and noted its comprehensiveness. He emphasized that the staff has done a great deal of work to develop it, and deserves recognition. J. Lund’s expression of thanks to J. Atwood was followed by a round of applause.

4. Presentation on Transportation Planning Activities (TIP, UPWP, Rail & Small Bridge Program)	M. Mullaney, FRCOG
---	--------------------

M. Mullaney discussed the 2018-22 Transportation Improvement Plan, noting particular projects, years scheduled, and anticipated costs:

2018:	Erving – Scenic Byway Streetscape	\$ 974,000
	Shelburne Rt. 2 - re-surface	\$ 5,000,000
2019:	Charlemont Center - Route 2	\$ 6,543,000
2020:	Colrain - Village Center	\$ 1,626,000
	Deerfield-Whately - Routes 5 & 10	\$ 2,085,000
	Sunderland - N. Main St.	\$ 2,217,000
2020 Bridges:	Charlemont - W. Oxbow over Wilder Brook	\$ 2,700,000
	Charlemont - Tower Rd over Chickley River	\$ 2,700,000
	Bernardston - Route 5 over Shattuck Brook	\$ 3,000,000
2021:	Buckland - Conway Rd, Conway St, South St.	\$ 5,600,000
	Deerfield - Stillwater Bridge	\$ 6,500,000
	Northfield - Schell Bridge	\$17,000,000
2022:	Greenfield - intersection at Big Y	\$ 2,200,000
	Whately - Haydenville Rd.	\$ 2,000,000

Further, she noted that TIP 2023 will include:

Orange - North Main Street	\$5.7 million, and
Conway - N. Poland Rd. Bridge over Poland Brook	\$4.1 million

The Governor recently announced that the pilot program for expanded rail service, for which the FRCOG and other stakeholders have been advocating, is scheduled to begin in June of 2019, following some necessary bridge work. The pilot will run for 2 1/2 years. It will permit daily roundtrip travel between Greenfield and NYC. Local riders will be able to depart from Greenfield early in the morning and arrive back in Greenfield late at night.

D. Roscoe noted that an 18-month study to look at service between Boston-Worcester-Springfield has recently been put out to bid, noting that such service could increase economic development locally by enabling Franklin County residents to commute to Boston, and enhancing the attractiveness of our lower-cost housing to those in the eastern part of the state. D. Roscoe and J. Lund indicated that Canada is interested in restoring service between Montreal, Vermont and Massachusetts. M. Mullaney noted that service to Boston from Greenfield is a long term goal of Franklin County.

M. Mullaney said that the state’s Municipal Small Bridge Program – currently in its 2nd year of a 5-year program -- is running smoothly and effectively, spending \$10 million annually. She reminded those present that application deadlines are June 30, October 31, February 28, and that any town in need of funding should look at the web site. A handful of Franklin County towns have received funding.

M. Mullaney reviewed some of FRCOG’s more visible work on transportation-related projects over the past 25 years. Slides depicted the GCC and Rt. 91 roundabouts; improvements made to Route 2 at Greenfield Mountain, the Erving paper mill and the French King bowling alley; staff members doing traffic-count field work; the Gill-Montague bridge; the historic Shelburne Falls trolley, the Greenfield Energy Park and the Olver Transportation Center. Additional slides highlighted bikeway improvements near the Green River swimming area; several bike-pedestrian bridges, including the former Montague railroad bridge; bike racks installed in many towns; vehicle charging stations; and numerous mapping and signage projects, especially those along scenic byways. Additional images aided her description of FRCOG’s feasibility study for a dock-less bike share program that would address air quality issues and could provide services to low-income residents. Depicting outreach projects were slides of the annual bike breakfast, community events in several towns, and efforts to boost tourism.

J. Lund’s expression of thanks was followed by a round of applause.

5. Presentation on 5G Wireless Infrastructure & State and Local Regulatory Authority	Lindsay DeRoche, MA Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC)
---	--

MA Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable oversees traditional telephone markets, cable TV service, consumer assistance and complaint resolution, and communications market monitoring. They have joint jurisdiction with DPU over utility pole attachments. Noting that historical services such as telephone and cable are converging into broadband internet service, DTC is trying to keep on top of

emerging technologies and to monitor the level of competition which is currently healthy in only a handful of communities in the Eastern part of the State. While 5G will not be a reality until at least 2020, growth in demand for wireless data is driving the proliferation of 4G or “small cells” (with ranges of 40 - 1000 feet) to supplement macro-cell networks when those become overloaded. Typically attached 20-40 feet above ground to vertical structures, often on utility poles, a small cell is an antenna attached to a base station requiring power and an internet connection. They vary greatly in size, shape and layout of gear, but can be as large as a small refrigerator. Small cell technology supports the “internet of things” such as driverless cars and refrigerators with internet connections to the grocery store, etc., L. DeRoche said. Demand for these technologies (and the data they require) is expanding exponentially and will require these larger units at frequent intervals.

The industry is supporting the filing of legislation to reduce state and local regulations. The legislation would promote statewide franchising, require application shot clocks (time limits), establish a firm rate cap, and allow single-use monopoles. It would also prohibit spacing requirements, allow for unit size up to 33 cubic feet; and limit local review on aesthetics and height. L. DeRoche indicated that his Department has concerns about the industry model legislation and has expressed those concerns to regulators.

L. DeRoche noted that small cells may someday be deployed to isolated locations without great sight lines, but that there is little investment from private companies at present. T. Cady indicated that Warwick is pursuing small cell technology in lieu of cable service, in some cases siting units on fire-towers. L. DeRoche confirmed that the technology is appropriate for “last-mile” drops. Discussion topics included the scarcity and ownership of utility poles, and the delineation of responsibility for maintenance between the pole-owner and the attacher. As an aside, DeRoche noted that the FCC has not yet chosen to address potential public health concerns regarding the radiation created by high-powered signals.

Wireless carriers are succeeding at pushing the FCC to remove barriers to deployment by removing barriers to investment, DeRoche explained. In November 2017, the federal government eliminated National Historic Preservation Act reviews. In March 2018, they excluded small wireless facilities from National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act reviews. Wireless infrastructure companies want the FCC to limit State and local authority on zoning issues and on wireless facility siting.

The MA Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable’s position is that the rights-of-way management should be maintained by local municipalities. They would like the FCC and wireless providers to work with municipalities to find mutually beneficial arrangements, such as the agreement being implemented between Verizon and the State capital. In exchange for guarantees that Verizon would employ broadband, Boston gave them a comprehensive approval for wireless siting on streetlights and signs, at predetermined prices, and a process utilizing a handful of pre-selected small cell designs. The agreement is available on line, and is a road map for how a company can deploy quickly at a known price and a known timeline in a manner acceptable to municipalities.

Nationally, 16 states have passed small cell legislation to reduce cost and speed permitting and 12 States have legislation currently filed and under debate. A few States rejected small cell legislation,

some in response to concerns raised by their municipalities. Planning boards may see an increase in applications for wireless attachments DeRoche noted.

Lastly, DeRoche provided guidance on important questions municipal officials should ask when reviewing requests for wireless attachments (both 4G and 5G): Will it attach to existing infrastructure? Is it on an existing utility pole or private property? Does it involve a municipal right-of-way? Companies should provide detailed information about the installation or attachment. Municipalities should be on the lookout for legal assertions which should be put in writing. Municipal officials may call him or a member of his staff anytime they have a question, he emphasized.

J. Lund’s expression of thanks was followed by a round of applause.

6. Updates on FERC Relicensing of the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Facility, FERC Process Letter & Recreational Marijuana Bylaws	P. Sloan, FRCOG
---	-----------------

P. Sloan shared the following from Kimberly MacPhee, FRCOG Land Use and Natural Resources Program Manager:

Settlement meetings scheduled for June 5-6, 2018 were cancelled and rescheduled to July 11-12 at the Northfield Mountain Visitors Center. FirstLight will be presenting their updated proposal for flows and participants will be discussing that and what the resource agencies want to see in order to protect habitat of rare and endangered species. Peggy and Kimberly will be attending these meetings.

The CT River Conservancy recently contacted FirstLight’s consultant to request updated information for the 2013 Exhibit D filed with FERC Exhibit D contains data on revenue and operating costs. CRC is hoping to get updated info on revenue and operating costs for the years between 2013 and 2018. If FL provides this information, it will help inform settlement discussions.

On June 8, 2018 CRC filed a new additional information/study request with FERC. The basic idea is to ask FERC to require FirstLight to properly assess all the mitigation options (including closed loop) to running Northfield Mountain in the future. The request lists the results of relicensing studies and the impacts that Northfield Mountain has on various resources. The CRC is hoping that FERC will require FirstLight to conduct an analysis, including costs, of various options for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating Northfield Mountain’s environmental impacts for the next forty years, while continuing to provide large-scale electric storage in an era of increasing renewable energy generation.

FRCOG staff has prepared a draft report that summarizes information from FL’s recreation studies and town OSRPs to identify needs and concerns the towns have about existing and future recreational facilities, including river access. Over the next several months, FRCOG will be reaching out to each town’s Open Space & Recreation Committee to discuss recreation needs, FERC relicensing and the 401 Water Quality Certificate process in more detail.

Sloan reported that the FRCOG and FRPB Executive Committees, after incorporating public input, sent a letter to FERC with suggestions on how to improve the process for permitting gas pipelines.

Sloan noted that both Whately and Erving approved Recreational Marijuana bylaws at recent town meetings, and that FRCOG staff is currently assisting Buckland, Sunderland and other towns to that end. The state has enabled towns to extend their moratoriums for 6 months beyond the initial year.

P. Sloan asked members to forward to L. Jacobson-Carroll their preferences for CPTC courses that they would like to see offered in Greenfield (see attached) in Fall 2018.

7. Review and Vote on Slate of Nominations for 2018/19 FRPB Annual Elections	FRPB Nominating Committee members
---	-----------------------------------

Jim Basford read the slate of nominees. (See attached.)

T. Cady moved to elect the nominees, T. Miner seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting/Adjourn/Public Comment	J. Lund
---	---------

J. Basford moved to adjourn the meeting, T. Hutcheson seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, May 24, 2018 – DRAFT
- *2018 CEDS Annual Report* (PowerPoint)
- Comprehensive Economic Development Plan Strategy Annual Report
- Transportation planning activities (PowerPoint)
- *Wireless Broadband Deployment Overview of State & Local Authority* (PowerPoint)
- FRCOG letter to FERC Re: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Regulatory Process for Gas Pipelines – Docket No. PL18-1-000
- Slate of Nominees for 2018-19 Annual Elections
- List of CPTC Courses Fall 2018

The next meeting will be held on September 27, 2018. Copies of all documents are available. Please contact Liz Jacobson-Carroll at ljc@frcog.org or 413-774-3167 x101.

Respectfully submitted,

Gisela Walker, Clerk - FRPB