



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin Regional Planning Board Executive Committee Minutes

May 6, 2019

*John W. Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street
2nd Floor Library, Greenfield*

Attendance

FRPB Executive Committee Members

J. Lund, Chair
C. Olchowski
T. Miner, Second Vice Chair
J. Basford
T. Cady
T. Hutcheson, 1st Vice Chair
J. Blyth
G. Walker

FRCOG Staff

Kimberly Noake MacPhee, Land Use & Natural Resources Program Manager

Actions

J. Lund called the FRPB Executive Committee meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The FRPB Executive Committee reviewed the minutes for March 4, 2019.

The FRPB Executive Committee discussed possible agenda items for the May 2019 FRPB meeting and requested presentations on the CEDS Annual Report and Economic Opportunity Zones, Transportation Options for Rural Areas to Reduce Carbon Emissions, and FERC Relicensing Updates for both Bear Swamp and CT River projects.

C. Olchowski mentioned his idea to host a legislative forum so Franklin County residents could share issues and concerns. Who should be invited? As an example of a county-wide issue, he mentioned the Shunpike sanitary issues and how Franklin County needs a united front to solve this problem. Who are stakeholders already involved in this? Discussion followed.

K. MacPhee provided a FERC update. FERC has not yet ruled on FirstLight's request to transfer ownership of the projects to new LLCs. On March 29th a stakeholder meeting was held by FirstLight to discuss recreation and erosion issues. J. Blyth summarized the "Study Report" portion of the March 29th meeting. FirstLight plans to file the Amended Final License Application with FERC on April 30, 2020. FRCOG will be working with stakeholders to refine our Adaptive River Management and Recreation Plan. Montague recently sent FirstLight a list of recreation needs.

K. MacPhee said FRCOG responded to an open comment period for the MassDEP 401 Water Quality Certificate (WQC) for Bear Swamp by sending in the letter FRCOG had previously filed with FERC and requesting that the MassDEP consider the comments in FRCOG's letter. FRCOG's filing with MassDEP during the public comment period for the 401 WQC preserves FRCOG's rights to appeal the Water Quality Certificate when issued.

Votes

Minutes: G. Walker moved to accept the March 4, 2019 minutes. T. Cady seconded. Minutes unanimously approved.

Nominating committee: T. Hutcheson moved that C. Olchowski, J. Basford and G. Walker be appointed to the Nominating Committee for the 2019-2020 Annual Elections. J. Basford seconded. Unanimously approved.

Adjourn: T. Hutcheson moved to adjourn. J. Blythe seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.