



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin Regional Planning Board— *MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, September 26, 2019 / 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Location:	JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA – First Floor Conference Room
Facilitator:	C. Olchowski, Chair - FRPB; Peggy Sloan, Planning Director - FRCOG

FRPB MEMBERS

Bob Armstrong, Conway Select Board

John Baronas, Deerfield At-Large

James Basford, Orange At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee, FRPB representative to the FRCOG Council, FRCOG Executive Committee, Representative to the Route 2 Task Force

Ted Cady, Warwick Planning Board, FRPB Executive Committee

Ann-Mary Cloutier, Deerfield Planning Board

Wayne Hachey, New Salem Select Board, FRCOG Council

Elizabeth Irving, Montague Planning Board

Jerry Lund, Chair, Leyden, At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee

Richard Nathorst, Leverett Planning Board

Charles Olchowski, Greenfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee

Mike Shaffer, Erving Planning Board

Jane Shaney, Ashfield Planning Board

Gisela Walker, Clerk, Charlemont Planning Board, FRCOG Executive Committee

Chuck Washer, Shelburne Select Board, FRPB Representative to the REPC

Marguerite Willis, Charlemont Select Board, FRCOG Council

Mark Zinan, Sunderland Select Board

FRCOG STAFF

Helena Farrell, Land Use & Natural Resources Planner

Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Administrative Services Assistant

Kimberly Noake McPhee, Land Use & Natural Resources Program Manager

Peggy Sloan, Planning & Development Director

PRESENTERS/GUESTS

Lucy Lee, Harvard Forest

Marissa Weiss, Harvard Forest

1. Introductions	C. Olchowski, Executive Committee – FRPB & FRPB Members
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C. Olchowski convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. A round of introductions followed.

2. Review and Approval of May 23, 2019 FRPB Minutes	C. Olchowski, Executive Committee – FRPB & FRPB Members
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T. Cady moved to adopt the 5/23/19 minutes, W. Hachey seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Presentation by Harvard Forest on New England Landscape Futures Project	M. Weiss, Program Manager – Harvard Forest, Harvard Univ.
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M. Weiss introduced the New England Landscape Futures (NELF) Explorer, a new interactive land-use planning tool, and explained that it was developed through a collaboration between the Harvard Forest, an NSF-funded stakeholder organization called S3 RCN*, and the Science Policy Exchange. She provided materials that explain the development process, include a backstory of community engagement, and point to on-line tutorials. L. Lee explained that NELF Explorer, used in stakeholder group settings, can help us prepare for what may come environmentally and demographically. Using four possible future scenarios, each the result of specific human attitudes and behaviors from the present forward, its modeling capabilities facilitate the comparison of varied outcomes to combinations of specific actions. The four scenarios – titled Connected Communities, Yankee Cosmopolitan, Growing Global and Go It Alone – each represent a quadrant resulting from the intersecting axis of socio-economic connectedness and natural resource planning and innovation. P. Sloan suggested that towns may be able to use the tool in planning for open space and recreation, and for new roads. In response to a question from J. Lund, K.N. MacPhee noted that the tool incorporates existing linear trends - including those pertaining to climate change and human migration. There was some discussion regarding the utility of the tool on the local versus regional level. M. Weiss and L. Lee offered to get in touch with individuals who may be interested in using the tool in their own groups.

C. Olchowski’s expression of thanks was followed by a round of applause.

*Landscape Scenarios, Ecosystem Services, and Benefits to Society Research Coordination Network

4. Presentation on Mapping Methods for Delineating River Corridors and Management Options to Increase Climate Resiliency	K. N. MacPhee, Land Use & Natural Resources Program Manager –FRCOG
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K.N. MacPhee presented a summary of her decade-long project (with partners in Field Geology Services and the Franklin Land Trust, funded by MassDEP and US EPA) to develop river corridor management tools applicable to the Deerfield River watershed and beyond. A forthcoming manual details a series of methods and models -- based on the science of fluvial geomorphology – that she hopes will help local officials, planners and others protect the health and improve the resiliency of the area. She emphasized the importance of stepping back from town-level assessments to address concerns in the context of the watershed as a whole.

Using the recent successful restoration of the South River watershed (within the Deerfield River watershed) and the Crowningshield Conservation Area as examples, KN MacPhee described the importance of an inclusive mapping protocol, then detailed the utility of river corridor overlay districts and easements. The toolkit includes conceptual restoration designs to reconnect floodplains, and stabilize banks, and identifies 40+ potential projects that would restore the geomorphic functions and habitat to degraded rivers. She noted the importance of evaluating proposed waterfront re-

development projects with an eye toward vulnerability; in particular, economic development and housing initiatives must consider the risks inherent in the specific locations, and utilize appropriate mitigation strategies. Referencing this new paradigm for watershed land-use in Massachusetts, she concluded by looking ahead to streamlining permitting, utilizing pre-approved project designs, securing funding for implementation, leveraging related initiatives, and piloting the toolkit in other MA watersheds.

There was discussion of the difficulty of enforcing zoning regulations in small towns, and the locus of responsibility to do so. K.N. MacPhee indicated that she has asked the state to facilitate the creation of a position for a floodplain manager to be hired by multiple towns.

5. Updates to MA Cannabis Control Commission Regulations for Marijuana Cafes	P. Sloan, Planning Director – FRCOG
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P. Sloan announced that the CCC is accepting applications from towns to pilot its new regulations for 2 additional venues for the sale of marijuana: cafés and delivery-only retail businesses. Whether or not Franklin County towns are included in the pilot program, planning boards may want to incorporate aspects of the new state regulations into their existing local regulations.

6. Updates on FERC Relicensing of Northfield Mountain Hydroelectric Facilities	P. Sloan, Planning Director – FRCOG
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P. Sloan stated that an intervenor in the relicensing process who objected to the breaking apart of First Light into several LLCs with separate licenses has been granted a re-hearing. Karl Meyer’s objection is based his observation and documentation of the impact of inadequate volume of water on sturgeon last May. His argument is that the corporation should not be allowed to break up because it has not appropriately managed the single license that it currently holds.

7. Other Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting/Adjourn/Public Comment	J. Lund, Chair - FRPB
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P. Sloan promised to send the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative flyer including just-announced dates for two sessions to be held at the Olver Center.

J. Lund moved to adjourn the meeting, W. Hachey seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, May 23, 2019 – DRAFT
- *Voices from the Land, Listening to New Englanders’ view of the Future*, a booklet by the New England Landscape Futures Project
- *Land Use Scenarios* handout, by New England Landscape Futures
- New England Landscape Futures Explorer team contact information and on-line resources sheet
- *River Corridors & Climate Resilient Watersheds*, Kimberly Noake MacPhee
- Cannabis Control Commission map
- Cannabis Control Commission press releases

- May 16, 2019: CCC Votes in Favor of Social Consumption Pilot Program in Third Day of Adult Use, Medical Use of Marijuana Policy Discussions
- September 24, 2019: CCC Approves Final Adult Use, Medical Use of Marijuana Regulations
- Draft Regulations of Social Consumption Pilot Program Application Process

The next meeting will be held on November 7, 2019. 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