



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin Regional Planning Board— *MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, November 5, 2020 / 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; Peggy Sloan, Planning Director - FRCOG

FRPB MEMBERS

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

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

Julia Blyth, Clerk, Northfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee, Rep. to the Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee

Marybeth Chichester, Colrain Planning Board*

Ron Coler, Ashfield At-Large

Barry DelCastilho, Buckland Select Board

Stanley Garland, Bernardston Select Board

Wayne Hachey, New Salem Select Board, FRCOG Council*

Thomas Hutcheson, 1st Vice Chair, Greenfield At-Large, FRPB Exec. Comm., Rep. to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Elizabeth (Betsy) Irving, Montague Planning Board*

Richard Nathhorst, Leverett Planning Board

Charles Olchowski, Greenfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee

Phil Pless, Ashfield At-Large

Mike Shaffer, Erving Planning Board

Jane Shaney, Ashfield Planning Board

Joseph Strzegowski, Conway Planning Board*

Homer (Tony) Stavelly, Northfield Planning Board

David Travers, Heath Select Board, FRPB representative to the Transportation Planning Organization

Chuck Washer, Shelburne Select Board, FRPB Rep. to the REPC

Analee Wulfsuhle, Deerfield Planning Board

Mark Zinan, Sunderland Select Board

*arrived sometime after the motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting

FRCOG STAFF

Peggy Sloan, Planning & Development Director; **Jessica Atwood**, Economic Development Program Manager; **Kimberly Noake McPhee**, Land Use & Natural Resources Program Manager; **Liz Jacobson-Carroll**, Administrative Services Assistant;

PRESENTERS/GUESTS

Jay DiPuccio, FRCOG Executive Committee, FRCOG Finance Committee

Sarah DeStefano, Brownfields Team Leader, Weston & Sampson

Anita Fritz, The Recorder

George Naslas, Vice President and Environmental Practice Leader, Weston & Sampson

1. Introductions	J. Lund, Chair – FRPB & FRPB Members
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J. Lund convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of September 24, 2020 FRPB Minutes	J. Lund, Chair – FRPB & FRPB Members
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C. Washer moved to adopt the 9/24/20 minutes, M. Shaffer seconded the motion, and the motion passed with 15 affirmative votes (Basford, Blythe, Coler, DelCastilho, Garland, Lund, Nathhorst, Hutcheson, Pless, Shaffer, Shaney, Stavelly, Travers, Washer, Zinan) and 2 abstentions (Olchowski, Wulfkuhle).

3. Presentation on and Discussion of Regional Brownfield Program	J. Atwood, Economic Dev. Program Manager – FRCOG & G. Naslas, LSP – Weston & Sampson
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After introducing G. Naslas and S. DeStefano of Weston & Sampson, the engineering contractor with whom FRCOG works closely on the Brownfields Program, J. Atwood then gave a brief history of what FRCOG and its many partners have accomplished with seven grants funding from the EPA. Approximately \$3 million in grants has been used to conduct research, outreach and site assessments, establish clean-up criteria, plan access, and hire contractors, among other activities to clean up/re-develop seventy-two sites in twenty-two Franklin County towns – at no cost to either the town or the property owner -- since 2002. In addition to listing the properties, she noted the local organizations and businesses represented on the Brownfields Steering Committee.

S. DeStefano indicated that Weston & Sampson’s Environmental Site Review involves reading historical records, interviewing those with knowledge of the property and its uses, considering each sites’ eligibility for funding, determining the feasibility and means of access, identifying the sources and composition of the contamination, and writing up their findings for FRCOG and EPA review. G. Naslas explained that the next phase involves evaluating the known contaminants, creating an inventory of hazardous materials, then working with FRCOG to determine if the level of effort required to mitigate these, and potentially demolish all or part of the built environment, aligns with the potential end-uses of the property. Those meeting this criterion proceed through remediation and implementation planning toward a permanent solution.

In summary, J. Atwood explained that the Brownfields Program eliminates the uncertainties facing potential buyers and developers, thus encouraging more of them to consider investment. She reviewed the status of several current projects: the downtown Buckland Police Station; an abandoned residence with river access in Orange; a downtown industrial site owned by the City of Greenfield; and an abandoned residence and junkyard on a pond in Warwick. J. Atwood concluded by encouraging attendees to send her suggestions of potential sites in their communities.

4. Presentation on and Discussion of Regional Pollinator Plan	K. MacPhee, Land Use & Natural Resources Program Manager - FRCOG
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K. N MacPhee introduced FRCOG’s Regional Pollinator Program, the first of its kind in the state, currently involving eight towns in Franklin County. She explained the need for the program, which aims to protect and restore pollinator populations, including 386 species of bees native to MA, upon which the whole ecosystem and the agricultural industry depend. The broad scope of the project is to develop a Regional Pollinator Plan in cooperation with the eight towns that can be emulated by other towns in the future. It will include a “toolkit” of recommendations on how towns can locate and map potential properties to build a corridor, and provide model language to aid towns in modifying their land use regulations. Further, it will help encourage municipal leaders to identify stakeholders to assist with the implementation of the plan, and to leverage other town priorities (such as building climate resiliency) to further their work. Municipal partners may include DPWs, planning boards, conservation commissions, recreation departments, schools, libraries and other town departments and committees. External partners may include local and regional environmentally-focused non-profit organizations, private groups, local farmers, and other individual landowners.

K.N. MacPhee reviewed a GIS tool, with “drill-down” features that can help users to identify existing land use and land cover, and potential sites such as the edges of woodland, farmland and roads, among other things. She described her work with the Wendell Pollinator Protectors, and Greening Greenfield, noting the value of an iterative process with townspeople who provide information not revealed through landscape analysis. In response to questions, she indicated that the toolkit from the current project will be available for use by other towns by the end of June 2021, and that FRCOG will be applying for additional funding to work with other towns seeking guidance. Discussion included the current and potential contributions of DPW staff, MassDOT, and utility companies that own long corridors of land beneath powerlines.

5. Update on FERC Relicensing	P. Sloan, Planning Director -- FRCOG
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P. Sloan reported on a meeting between FirstLight CEO and herself, K.N. MacPhee, and Linda Dunlavy, as well as on FRCOG’s work with Franklin County legislators to encourage DEP to fund a peer review of FirstLight’s application for re-licensing, which is expected to be filed in November or December.

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 encouraged members to consider attending one or more of the statewide Citizen Planner Training Collaborative’s on-line training sessions. FRCOG is hosting Roles & Responsibilities of Planning Boards, but citizen planners can attend any of the sessions.

P. Sloan announced the resignation of Tom Miner, from the FRPB. She thanked him, in absentia, for his decades of work on a variety of regional planning issues. J. Lund echoed the sentiment, noting that his work on the FRCOG Executive Committee, from which he has also stepped down, was equally essential and significant.

W. Hachey moved to adjourn the meeting, Hutcheson seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, September 24, 2020 – DRAFT
- FRCOG Regional Brownfields Program, November 5, 2020
- Regional Pollinator Habitat Corridor Action Plan

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2020. Copies of all documents are available. Please contact Liz Jacobson-Carroll at ljc@frcog.org or 413-774-3167 x101.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Blythe, Clerk - FRPB