



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin Regional Planning Board— *MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, November 3, 2022 / 6:00 – 7:45 p.m.
Location:	Remote Meeting Via Zoom
FRCOG Office:	JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield,
Facilitator:	Jerry Lund, Chair - FRPB; Peggy Sloan, Planning Director - FRCOG

FRPB MEMBERS

- Jerry Lund**, Chair, Leyden, At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Sam Birch**, Wendell At-Large
- Julia Blyth**, Clerk, Northfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Heidi Bohn**, New Salem Planning Board
- Marybeth Chichester**, Colrain Planning Board, FRPB Executive Committee
- Lloyd Crawford**, Hawley Planning Board
- Hannah Davis**, Whately Select Board
- David Dean**, Sunderland Select Board
- Zara Dowling**, New Salem At-Large
- Jennifer Gross**, 1ST Vice Chair, Wendell Select Board, FRPB Executive Committee
- Emily Johnson**, Deerfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee, FRCOG Executive Committee
- Charles Olchowski**, Greenfield At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Phil Pless**, Ashfield At-Large
- Walker Powell**, Orange Select Board
- Valentine Reid**, Charlemont Select Board
- Michael Shaffer**, Erving At-Large, FRPB Executive Committee
- Jane Shaney**, Ashfield Planning Board
- David Travers**, Heath Select Board, FRPB representative to the Transportation Planning Organization
- Chuck Washer**, Shelburne Select Board, FRPB Representative to the REPC
- Analee Wulfkuhle**, Deerfield Planning Board
- Tricia Yacovone-Biagi**, Shelburne Planning Board
- Alec Wade**, Town of Orange

FRCOG STAFF

- Peggy Sloan**, Planning & Development Director; **Liz Jacobson-Carroll**, Administrative Services Assistant; **Megan Rhodes**, Sr. Transportation & Land Use Planner, **Beth Giannini**, Senior Transportation Planner II

PRESENTERS/GUESTS

- MJ Adams**, City of Greenfield
- Jan Ameen**, Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD)

1. Introductions and Review and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes	J. Lund, Chair – FRPB & FRPB Members
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J. Lund convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. A round of introductions followed.

C. Olchowski moved to adopt the 9/22/22 minutes, M. Chichester seconded the motion, and the motion passed by roll call vote with four abstentions. Bohn, Dowling, Pless and Reid abstained; Adams, Blythe, Davis, Shaffer, Travers had not yet joined the meeting.

2. Presentation and Discussion on Solid Waste Management in 2022	J. Ameen, Executive Director, FCSWMD
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Ameen provided a brief history of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, which was formed in 1989, and consists of 21 towns, 17 transfer stations, and has a \$2.1 million budget and a staff of 2.5 FTEs. She described a spring 2022 crisis precipitated by the bankruptcy of a local waste-to-energy facility, and several serious and ongoing challenges: the lack of landfills in western MA; the complexity of shipping waste by rail to South Carolina; the rise in “tip fees” from \$81/ton in 2020 to \$101/ton by 2025. Similarly, the market for recyclable waste has been volatile -- costing towns \$70/ton at one point in FY21, earning them an average of over \$21/ton in FY22, and costing an average of \$38/ton in FY23. Ameen reviewed recent prohibitions on the disposal of mattresses and textiles, and new and ongoing recycling programs for each. Discussion topics included: local legislators’ efforts to address sludge-disposal concerns with the DEP; Montague’s success with new technology at its treatment plant; the differing and changing values of recyclable commodities; and the potential for diverting cardboard from recycling to composting and agricultural use. Conversation continued regarding DEP’s singular use of bans to meet the 2050 zero-waste goal; waste bans as economic development tool; and the annual defeat of extended producer responsibility (EPR) legislation (the FRPB Executive Committee will consider recommending a letter of support for legislation addressing this topic to the FRCOG Executive Committee); and the logistical challenge of battery collection from transfer stations throughout the county.

3. Presentation and Discussion of Franklin County Outdoor Recreation Plan (FCORP)	Megan Rhodes, Senior Transportation & Land Use Planner, FRCOG
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Rhodes noted that recreational concerns and infrastructure have long been included in local and regional plans focused on economic development and transportation planning. However, this standalone regional plan focuses on outdoor recreation and includes an inventory of the types of activities available throughout the county. Rhodes noted that volunteers are the backbone of many outdoor recreation offerings. Rhodes said that the increased participation in outdoor recreation prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions has continued. Current trends include growing interest in pickleball and, due to climate change, decreasing opportunities for snow-based activities. County-wide recommendations include: marketing more widely and across activities; creating a comprehensive recreation/economic development plan; and advocating for the creation of a MA Office of Outdoor Recreation. FCORP goals include the development of tourism infrastructure – adding parking signs, boat ramps, public bathrooms, bike racks, etc. that are both physically and financially accessible – in towns small and large. Another is to bolster municipalities’ staffing and volunteer management for recreational activities.

A significant companion component of the project has involved collecting and creating GPS points for trailheads throughout the region. These will soon be put on-line for public use, and complement a larger DCR project to collect and make available data on trails throughout the state. There is also a National movement toward comprehensive mapping of all outdoor recreation infrastructure. Discussion topics include the planned skate park in Greenfield; the use of Community Preservation Act

funds on recreational asset-building; and the gathering of GIS shape-files from Open Space Committees and Conservation Commissions.

4. Presentation and Discussion of Age & Dementia Friendly Transportation Assessments	Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner II, FRCOG
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Giannini noted that while transportation planners have long considered the perspectives of pedestrians and cyclists, they have more recently been working with public health colleagues to understand the infrastructure-related needs of older adults and those with dementia. FRCOG’s Community Health Improvement Plan has focused attention on the “friendliness” of both transportation and outdoor recreation facilities to these communities. She mentioned, too, that age- and dementia-friendly projects have a competitive advantage when vying for MassDOT funding programs such as Shared Spaces and Complete Streets, and that designing with an all-inclusive framework is preferable and less expensive than modifying the already-build environment. Discussion topics included specific ideas -- such as providing benches, handrails and way-finding features; Giannini will provide links to technical guides and specifications.

5. Brief Update on FERC Relicensing Process	P. Sloan, Planning Director, FRCOG
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Sloan explained that negotiations regarding erosion in the CT River continue between First Light staff and stakeholders as part of the process of re-licensing the Northfield Mountain storage facility for 30-50 years. Differences remain as the December deadline approaches; Sloan will provide an update at the January meeting.

6. Other Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting/Adjourn/Public Comment	J. Lund, Chair - FRPB
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Rhodes introduced FRTA’s new marketing program aimed at enticing riders to the system. She shared depictions of busses featuring banners reading “Less cars. Less Carbon”, and welcomed several suggestions regarding these and a new informational brochure. Discussion topics also included the necessity of designated parking spaces at bus stops in rural areas as well as the FRTA Access program.

T. Yacovone-Biagi moved to adjourn the meeting, J. Blythe seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, September 22, 2022 – DRAFT
- *About the FCSWMD*, Jan Ameen
- *Franklin County Outdoor Recreation Plan*
- *Age- and Dementia-Friendly Transportation*

The next meeting will be held on January 26, 2023. Copies of all documents are available. Please contact Liz Jacobson-Carroll at ljc@frcog.org or 413-774-3167 x101.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Blyth, Clerk - FRPB