

STRAFFORD

Regional Planning Commission

SRPC COMMISSION/EDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Meeting Minutes
October 20, 2023
9:00-10:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair David Landry called the meeting to order and asked for introductions:

Members attending in person: Dave Landry, Dover; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Bill Fisher, Farmington; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Wayne Burton, Durham

Staff attending in person: Jen Czysz, Autumn Scott. Mark Davie

Members attending on Zoom: Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Charlene Anderson, Nottingham; Cheryl Smith, Nottingham

Staff attending on Zoom: Angela Cleveland, Megan Taylor-Fetter

2. Action Items

a. Approval of the September 21, 2023 Minutes

K. Kasper motioned to approve the minutes of September 21, 2023. B. Holstein seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: B. Fisher, P. Nelson, M. Bobinsky. M. Richardson, B. Holstein voted in favor. K. Buzard, W. Burton, C. Smith, J. Boudreau abstained. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

b. Appointment of NHARPC Representative

J. Czysz stated that the New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions (NHARPC) is the affiliation of the nine regional planning commissions (RPCs) in the state of New Hampshire. The members of the association are the Commissioners of the nine RPCs, and services are provided by RPC staff. Each region is entitled to 4 seats: (1) the executive director, (2) commissioner full voting members, (1) commissioner alternate. Currently, Don Hamann serves as a voting member leaving a full member and an alternate vacancy.

After discussion, a motion was made to appoint Katrin Kasper as a full member and Wayne Burton as alternate member to the NHARPC. A roll call vote was taken: B. Fisher, P. Nelson, M. Bobinsky. M. Richardson, B. Holstein voted, K. Buzard, W. Burton, C. Smith, J. Boudreau voted in favor. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

3. Commissioner Roundtable

P. Nelson stated that two new restaurants have opened in Newmarket; the town has become a wine and dine hotspot. There is a multiple EV charging station in town.

J. Boudreau reported that the Rochester Washington Street Roundabout is nearing completion. It should enhance safety and convenience for travelers using that route.

W. Burton commended J. Czysz for her presentation at the SRPC informational visit at a Durham Town Council meeting.

M. Bobinsky stated that the developer for the Elm Street 150 unit project has been through a series of appeals and denials with the Historic Preservation Commission. They will continue to negotiate and find out the reasons for denial.

M. Bobinsky asked if the situation in congress and the struggle to seat a house speaker persists and the government shuts down, will that affect SRPC funding. J. Czysz stated that it would not impact SRPC funding which is at a state level.

P. Nelson asked if regional impact has been considered in regard to the proposed sports dome in Somersworth. A brief discussion ensued on how this project would impact the region and what SRPC's role could be.

W. Burton stated that the West Edge project is moving forward. It will employ over 1000 people and benefit local businesses. UNH is exempt from local planning controls unless it is commercial. There is a new tenant in the old data general plant. All of this increases the need for housing.

M. Woodward stated that the first initiative at UNH is the expansion of Ocean mapping which is a valuable resource.

W. Burton reported that the City of Portsmouth pulled back on the water project. They only had one bidder on the project and they bid way above budget.

M. Woodward stated that Lowes is advertising an electric cargo trike which would fall under the moped category. Mary stated that NH now has funding to update the Climate Action Plan and will be looking for input.

4. Communities for Healthy Aging Transitions – CHAT

J. Czysz opened the presentation by stating that this project was founded in partnership with several other organizations including Seacoast Health Network and the UNH Planning School. These organizations played a big part in outreach and getting the surveys out to the aging population.

Angie Cleveland and Autumn Scott presented an overview of the CHAT project. The elements of the process include outreach, community assistance, action plans, the resource guide, and implementation projects.

After the presentation, the group engaged in discussion hitting on topics including availability of the data and the guide, intergenerational connections and activities,

availability of programs in the communities and creating action plans. Partnering with AARP, assisting the aging during emergencies, outreach to regional medical facilities, senior centers,

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

7. Adjournment

M. Bobinsky motioned to adjourn seconded by K. Kasper. All members voted in favor, motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 10:40AM