



Quarterly Meeting of the Strafford RPC Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

December 7 2023

3:45 – 5:30 PM

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Dave Landry called the meeting to order at 3:54 PM and asked for introductions:

Members attending in person: Bill Fisher, Farmington; Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Tom Crosby, Madbury; John Mullen, Middleton; Michael Bobinsky, Somersworth; John Nute, Milton; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Mark Richardson, Somersworth

Staff attending in person: Jen Czysz, Kyle Pimental, Autumn Scott, Lisa Murphy

Members attending on Zoom: Peter Nelson, Newmarket

Staff attending on Zoom: Megan Taylor-Fetter, Angie Cleveland, Mark Davie

2. Action Items

a. Minutes from October 20, 2023

D. Landry motioned to approve the minutes of October 20, 2023 as written. B. Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

3. Discussion Items

a. Water Resource Planning

Assistant Director Kyle Pimental, Senior Planner Lisa Murphy, and Regional Planner Autumn Scott presenting.

K. Pimental shared how water recreation played a huge part in his childhood and continues to this day. He stated that water resource planning is a cornerstone of SRPC's environmental program, and the program has grown over the years. He is really proud of the program and success stories.

His experiences have instilled the Importance of water resource protection and has influenced his work on the planning commission.

Staff shared commission's achievements in water resource planning over the last several years, including updates on new funding sources, specific project highlights, and future opportunities. Water resource planning is a cornerstone of SRPC's

environmental program and offers staff the chance to work with municipalities in thinking about issues outside their borders and more on a watershed-wide level. Our work includes developing watershed-based plans, enhancing drinking water protection, writing open space and master plan chapters, and offering technical assistance with land use policy and regulatory amendments.

The group discussed public access on water ways and common pollutants including aging septic systems.

b. Strategic Plan update and equity

J. Czysz stated that over the course of the next calendar year, we will periodically host conversations to guide the update of SRPC's Strategic Plan. Last updated in 2020, the strategic plan was created to guide SRPC's programs and services over the last couple of years. One area of continued growth is in how we communicate about the commission and engage with the communities we serve. Concurrently, our outreach and engagement and transportation staff are working to build broader community engagement.

Autumn Scott shared an organizational assessment and stated we are getting an understanding of where we are. SRPC staff have created a survey that rates how SRPC is doing in different categories.

In 2024, SRPC is updating the Public Participation and evaluating how SRPC embodies health justice and racial equity in practice and identifying opportunities for growth and improvement in our work. We are doing this with our staff and Commissioners to truly understand how we operate and work together on solutions. We are using @Praxis_Project's Working Principles for Health Justice & Racial Equity as a checklist to ensure that our health initiatives and programs will be transformational for our communities.

Encompass all populations in our planning processes. The intent is to have a broader conversation and think about how we can improve as planners.

c. Future planning topics

J. Czysz asked commissioners what topics in their communities they would like to learn about, what resources they are interested in, and recent work they would like to share.

4. Commissioner Roundtable

5. Other Business

- 6. Citizens Forum**
- 7. Adjourn**