

 **NRPC APPROVED MINUTES**
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
December 16, 2009

Members Present:

Martin Michaelis, Amherst
Peter Baker, Hollis
Brian Carroll, Hudson
Howard Dilworth, Jr., Hudson
Richard Maddox, Hudson
Stuart Schneiderman, Hudson
Leon Barry, Litchfield
Karin Elmer, Merrimack
Donald Wunderlich, Merrimack

Janet Langdell, Milford
Andy Seale, Milford
Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
David R. Hall, Mont Vernon
Robert Canaway, Nashua
Mike Tabacsko, Nashua
Ed Gleason, Pelham
Joe Torre, Wilton

Joanne Morin, Director OEP

Diane Sheehan, Nashua Alderman Elect

Staff Present:

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director
Tim Roache, Assistant Director

Karen M. Baker, Administrative Assistant
Julie Chizmas, Transportation Planner

Mike Fimbel, Acting Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Privilege of the Floor

There were no members of the public in attendance that wished to speak. Diane Sheehan, Nashua Alderman Elect did introduce herself.

Introduction of New Members

Fimbel introduced new Commission member Ed Gleason of Pelham, and also noted that another recently appointed Commissioner, Bob Canaway of Nashua was present.

Presentation by Joanne Morin, Director of the NH Office of Energy and Planning

Joanne Morin, new Executive Director of the NH Office of Energy and Planning introduced herself and summarized her background and experience in planning, specifically her work with DES and the Laconia Planning Board. She recognized NRPC's iTRaC program as a great example of innovative planning in New Hampshire. She also appreciates NRPC's work on the NH Citizen Collaborative initiative that will provide on line training to land use board members across the state. Before she started her presentation, she informed the group that the 2010 Census was coming and she had handouts available in both English and Spanish. She added that there would be a big push in January to get the word out and that she was currently working with the Governor's office to start an outreach plan. Joanne had two presentation slide sets that she wanted to share with the Commission. Both are listed below with a brief overview of what was discussed:

NH Climate Action Plan – A Role for the New Hampshire Regional Planning Commissions

- Climate Change in the Northeast
- Greenhouse Gas Emission Projections
- Climate Change Policy Taskforce and Recommended Goals and Essential Strategies to Achieve Goals
- Maximizing Efficiency in Buildings and Encouraging Land Use Patterns that Reduce VMT Using a Multi-Modal Transportation System
- Develop Integrated Education
- Climate Action Plan Emission Reduction Potential and Adapting and Planning to and for Existing and Potential Climate Change Impacts
- Potential Roles of the Climate Action Plan for RPC's and Action Examples

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

- 16 ARRA Programs throughout the State
- Purpose and Requirements
- OEP Guiding Policies
- ARRA OEP Programs and Goals
- State Energy Program
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
- Federal Weatherization Assistance Program
- State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (has not been rolled out yet, in planning stages)

Joanne concluded her presentations. There were several questions during each. Below is a summary of the questions and answers:

Carroll – Is the Greenhouse Gas Emissions # of 15 where it was in 1990 or beyond?

Morin – Where it was and basically by 2050 it is possible to have an 80% reduction in emissions (a long term goal).

Carroll – How does it relate to NH in relation to comparable states, where are we?

Morin – NH is the 3rd most forested state.

Canaway – Commented on potential impacts if the Seabrook Reactor started up and the Bow plant and questioned whether scrubbers had an impact. He also referred to the significant reduction in emissions at a Massachusetts coal plant.

Morin – Scrubbers don't have an impact

Barry – asked if there were other resources to reduce electric generation, i.e. wind?

Morin – Solar was one and there were new polices that encourage wind and bio-mass. Waves is a potential on the seacoast and offshore wind has been proposed on the seacoast.

Hall – Asked if there was a number for market cost available on wind.

Morin – Yes, she would send it to him.

Seale commented that nuclear was cheaper and more efficient than wind. Morin said that Bio-mass (wood pellets or wood) was good to use for heating due to it being carbon neutral. She added that CO2 stays in the atmosphere for over 100 years.

Carroll – Do you have something saying what areas that are now green can never be built on again?

Morin – That is where an analysis would come in which is currently being done.

Fimbel – Asked what could be done to help entice builders to build green?

Morin – Have to generate a demand, educate the public, then look at the assessment incentives and work with appraisers (demand-value-bank value).

Hall – questioned solar hot water and the issues associated with it in the past.

Morin – Said that they have come along way with solar hot water and the technology is much better. She suggested talking to an installer for more facts about solar hot water installations.

Morin concluded informing group that the 2009 new state energy codes have to be adopted soon. She asked if there were any further questions or comments. Maddox thought both presentations were very informative and should be put on a wider forum like cable and said they could be a clearinghouse of information by doing this. He added that he would bring this information back to the Hudson Board of Selectmen.

Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2009

Chairman Fimbel asked if there were any comments on the minutes of June 17th, 2009. Baker questioned the 2nd paragraph, last sentence on Page 3 was correct. Roache said yes and explained a little more in detail. Fimbel asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Maddox motioned with a second from Baker,

THAT the minutes of June 17th 2009 be approved.

The motion carried with 1 abstention from Gleason.

Program Reports

TTAC

Roache reviewed the TTAC report memo handed out and summarized what had been done to date, priorities, recommendations, and gave examples of TE projects explaining they were softer transportation projects like sidewalk projects as opposed to CMAQ Program projects which tend to be more involved and have to provide and air quality benefit. Carroll asked how many TE projects were selected and what the total dollar amount was for the CMAQ program. Roache answered 7 TE projects and \$10 million statewide and have to benefit non-attainment area. Carroll asked if you could apply for the whole 10 million. Roache answered yes, but there was a cost benefit of dollars per kilogram of pollutant reduced. Roache referred to the color 11 x 17 handout included with the TTAC memo which outlined the Ten Year Plan process and reviewed with group. Maddox requested that the documents that are part of the Ten Year Plan (LRTP, TIP, AQ) be posted online.

Barry asked what the status was on the TE projects (waiting or already approved). Roache informed that the projects were ranked, selected, and submitted to DOT. Additionally, there was about 4 to 6 million statewide and that he was pretty assured to get 1 project selected from our region.

NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions (NHARPC)

Diers explained that this new segment regarding the NHARPC is being done to keep everyone involved and in the know of what activities we are involved in and that we would keep providing formal reports. Carroll said it would be easier to get the information before the meetings. Diers said that they would in the future and that today was the kickoff for getting the reports. Fimbel elaborated that the goal is to have some legislative clout and the whole purpose of being a part the NHARPC so feedback now and in the future would be helpful. Diers referred to the LSR list handed out and explained that this information would be relayed to the group in the future via email and that nothing listed had been voted on yet. Currently they are scheduling hearings where input from all RPC's is solicited. Langdell asked about HB1375 – a subcommittee to study RPC's. Schneiderman read the detail and Diers heard that this was intended to be a friendly study committee. Dilworth thought it could be to see either how the scope of RPC's can be expanded or reduced. Barry questioned if all the dates associated would be voted on at once. Diers said hearings would be scheduled for each. Dilworth suggested Barry look at the docket bills associated with each LSR to see if any hearings had been scheduled. Langdell asked if there were any Legislators that worked for RPC's. Dilworth said that Ken Wyler with Rockingham was either one or going to be one.

Seale asked and commented about the PAN AM controversy regarding rail and how it was originally an ethics issue and reason PAN AM walked away. Diers informed the Commission that at the last NH Rail Transit Authority meeting the chair, Peter Burling reported about the talks with AMTRAK and that they are interested. They were the only group that could trump PAN AM, so the Rail authority and DOT are pursuing this. She added that the Commissioner of DOT recommended that the entire Capitol Corridor be added into the Ten Year Plan and that was approved by the GACIT hearing. Barry asked where the rail would be going. Diers answered Lowell to Concord.

Diers said the NRPC program reports were included in the handouts and would not be reviewed at this time around.

New Subcommittee Recommendations

Diers explained that Baker volunteered to spearhead a group of Commissioners to develop NRPC's regional policies. We need to be able to state our positions on various regional planning topics and come up with a set of polices (ex. This is what is important to NRPC like Rail, other projects, etc). Baker said he would be meeting

with Jill Longval, NRPC's Public Outreach Coordinator, on sending out a priority notice and what we want to talk to legislators about. Maddox asked that we put NRPC in the subject and have it be just 5 questions. Baker said he would send it to everyone and it would be simple, the subject matter and who it was from would all be identified. Diers added that it could be an annual thing that would require updates. Langdell felt it would be good to bring it back to the boards to get policy generated. Carroll added that relevance was important, but not to forget the things that are necessary to keep things moving. Diers concluded that she was looking for volunteers to help Baker on this.

Diers explained the second subcommittee recommendation that involved preserving what we have for information at NRPC (Pictures, etc). Diers explained that Dilworth came up with this idea as a result of our 50th Anniversary celebration. Dilworth referred to the pictures shown at dinner of people, intersections, traffic, towns, etc and the fact that people have died who would have been able to explain the content of some of the pictures or give you a story. From this he suggested creating a subcommittee to work off to the side to begin the process of converting the many NRPC slides to electronic format and to develop an electronic filing system with longtime Commissioners for history purposes. Dilworth asked for folks to think about volunteering to be on this committee which would start mid to late January. Carroll said he would like to be involved, technology wise for linking, sprucing and utilizing web tools.

Other Business

Diers informed that the new owners of Budweiser have changed their policies regarding events at their venue in Merrimack, so we will need to research another venue for the annual Legislative Forum.

Commissioners' Roundtable

A commissioner's roundtable was held. It was moved by Carroll and seconded by Torre:

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:31 pm.

The motion **carried** unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Kerrie Diers, Official Recorder