



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Executive Committee
August 17, 2005

Present: Kathy Hersh, Vice Chair
Nelson Disco, Treasurer
Tom Collins
Howard Dilworth, Jr.
Ray Peeples
Mike Fimbel

Staff: Stephen Williams, Executive Director
Kerrie Diers, Assistant Director

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Kathy Hersh at 6:00 pm. Hersh stated that John Eresian had been in an accident and would not be able to attend.

Approval of the Minutes of June 15, 2005

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Disco, and seconded by Dilworth. Motion passed.

Administration:

a. Finance Report for June 30, 2005

Williams reviewed the end of Fiscal Year 2005 reports. Staffing is back to full capacity, which means that expenses have increased. We have also invoiced many contracts, so resources have also increased. Williams was pleased to end the year with almost \$21,000.00 in surplus.

b. Finance Report for July, 2005

For the month of July, the dues payments are reflected in the high income assessment. Expenses increased this month due to payment of our professional services subcontractors. In column "H" there are over two million in resources, which means we are in a good position for the coming year.

c. Location for September 2005 Commission Meeting

Williams discussed the possibility of alternate locations for the Commission meeting in September. Nashua High School was suggested as a nice facility with central location and free room cost. The Committee determined that it was not interested in pursuing a room rental cost of \$2,000-\$2,800 per year.

Policy

a. Amendment to Unified Planning Work Program

Williams explained that the amendment was needed to include the Commuter Rail Project Management for the City of Nashua. Dilworth asked if there were any issues that the Full Commission should be aware of. None were brought forward. The Executive Committee approved the amendment unanimously.

b. Review of NHARPC Legislative Priorities

Williams reviewed the proposed legislative priorities. Fimbel asked if NHARPC had hired a lobbyist. The NHARPC has contracted with a lobbyist to work with them on tracking legislation and policy issues. Williams would like the Executive Committee to: 1. Support the priorities and 2. Grant Steve Williams and

Mike Fimbel the authority to vote on legislative issues before the NHARPC. Dilworth requested as a regular item on the Executive Committee agenda a report from NHARPC meetings so that the Executive Committee can stay aware of actions taken. Peoples asked also for copies of any NHARPC letters sent to the legislature. Motion to support the legislative priorities and to allow Williams and Fimbel to vote on matters pertaining to the priorities was made by Dilworth and seconded by Disco. Motion approved. Fimbel abstained from the vote.

c. Proposed Legislation for NH Rail Transit Authority

Williams distributed proposed legislation for creating a Rail Transit Authority. This entity would be a new creation in New Hampshire and have the authority to enter into contracts and operate the railroad. Williams and Kit Morgan, NH DOT, drafted the legislation. They are working with the Nashua and Manchester legislative delegations to get this enacted. The key provisions are that it must be able to issue revenue bonds backed by the State of NH, and that it has a liability cap of \$75 million. The liability cap is only for the purpose of passenger rail. No other authority that currently exists in the State is capable of these duties. Williams hopes to have sponsors and support from all three regions. Kathy Hersh asked if there could be an update on the commuter rail project at every meeting. Williams will ask the Full Commission to support the legislation in September.

Williams also mentioned that with the passage of the Transportation Reauthorization, NRPC is expecting another \$150,000 to \$160,000 total increase in funding. We will need to review our match for increased funding.

d. NRPC Regional Plan

Williams reviewed the Draft Buildout Impact Study Report. Fimbel asked how towns should use the report. Williams explained that this is the first step in the Regional Plan Process. The Committee suggested that a press release be sent out about the report and that NRPC should control the message about the Impact Study Report.

Williams reviewed the proposed process for completing the NRPC Regional Plan. It will take over two years to complete. This process will focus on issues rather than the laundry list of standardized chapters and data. NRPC will cast a wide net to have as many local officials, the public and leaders involved in the process. Regular communications was identified as an important asset, either through a newsletter or email list serve.

Other Business:

Fimbel suggested that in looking for new facilities, NRPC should consider looking for something as part of a Brownfields redevelopment project.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:55 pm by Fimbel, seconded by Disco. Meeting was adjourned.