

Mayville commented on how good it was to work with the Town of Litchfield. She commented that Litchfield was very good about planning ahead and referred to the Albuquerque Ave project and their handling controlled access, right of way with developers, and building for the future with longer drainage pipes.

NRPC LIVE MAPS DEMONSTRATION

Sara Siskavich, GIS Manager

Diers explained that part of the strategic plan by the Executive Committee was to make NRPC's data more available online. She added that LIVE Maps is just one piece that will be rolled out over the next few months. She introduced Sara Siskavich, GIS Manager.

Siskavich explained this process involved taking the data that NRPC maintains and making it available in a different way so that towns can utilize it in more ways than just static maps. This new way would be a more interactive public facing resource and cut down on counter-traffic on us and town halls. The idea is to have easy online and intuitive data and have the website be fast. She informed the group that they chose Map Geo, a modern host which uses the Amazon cloud, with no server to be maintained and includes updates.

Siskavich proceeded to navigate to the website to provide a brief lesson on how to use the site. She pointed out the disclaimer which you have to accept before using the site. She summarized the site saying there are not a lot of tools and it uses Google-type navigation with tabs for maps and associated features such as aerial photos and an open street map. There is also land use, zoning district data, flood hazard, water resources data layers. She added that it is planning specific with town abbreviation labels. Gleason asked where the floodplain data is from. Siskavich said it was FEMA Floodplain official data. Siskavich added that the land parcel viewer links to property data records at the towns. Langdell questioned the age of the data. Siskavich referred to the disclaimer at the beginning which identifies that.

There was a question from Young regarding residents not wanting their records showing and how we deal with that. Siskavich said you can see the parcel boundary, but there is no label; certain data is suppressed. In response to a question from Langdell on how we determine which data to suppress, Siskavich said direction on that will come from the assessor or selectmen or town policy. Dell Orfano asked how a regular person would learn to use this public facing beta site. Siskavich said she hoped folks would not have to learn as the site is very easy to use. Siskavich added that there is also a contact and comment box included as a mechanism to notify us if something is not working with the site or to provide feedback. She added that she can do a workshop for towns if needed. Hennessey asked when this would be ready to roll out. Siskavich said she was at the 95% mark for roll out and anticipated early New Year and ready for town meetings in March.

Langdell informed the group of the Executive Committee's idea to have this put on local access cable channels and maybe have a tutorial for the new site which could also be a potential for marketing. Siskavich provided a demonstration on the capability to capture a basic map from the screen or something you saw. Langdell asked about compatibility. Siskavich said the program is compatible with FireFox, Internet Explorer, Chrome, Safari and that no flash player is needed and therefore it does not bog down.

Mayville felt this would be a good asset management effort when talking to towns and asked if there would be the ability to build layers. Siskavich said yes, built around parcels. There was talk about adding a transportation data layer. Maddox asked if there was password protection on the layers. Siskavich said there would be the ability to do public and private. Panwalkar asked about the data being official vs not official. Diers said this is not official and that folks should go to the town itself for official data. Siskavich concluded by referring to the disclaimer that appears upon visiting the site.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

The Chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes of September 18, 2013. It was moved by Fimbel and seconded by Battis:

THAT the minutes of September 18, 2013 be approved.

The motion **carried** with 6 abstentions.

BUSINESS MEETING –

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Update

Roache summarized that a lot of public outreach has been done and the last workshop was held in November. At this workshop, they took a different approach and asked the folks in attendance to prioritize and did an exercise with Monopoly money where each participant was given \$100 transportation dollars and asked to prioritize the money across 5 categories: Build new roads and bridges; Fix the existing roads and bridges; Maintain and expand regional transit service; Intercity bus and rail service; and Pedestrian and bicycle facilities. He added that the same exercise was also done with the TTAC and had a slightly different result (see *Metropolitan Transportation Plan Workshop Summary, Program Highlights – December 18, 2013*). Dollars were tallied by category and compared to the funding distribution in the current MTP. Maddox asked how many people attended the workshop and where did we find them. Roache said there were about 30 in attendance and it was a good group that did not consist of just elected officials, Commissioners and staff. He added that the workshop was advertised in the Telegraph.

Roach also informed the Commissioners that the Exit 36S Study that is collaboration between NRPC, the City of Nashua, Northern Middlesex County of Governments (NMCOG) and the Town of Tyngsborough both in the State of Massachusetts was moving forward. He added that an Existing Conditions document has been drafted and will be going out to the Steering Committee and DOT. In addition, he was working on a Future Conditions document. Roache added that they would be meeting with a consultant for a decent cost estimate. Panwalkar asked who was taking the lead. Roache said NRPC was taking the lead. Tabacsko said there was talk that Gateway Hills wanted access to ramps on the turnpike and how they could tie in. Roache said they were having trouble making traffic work at their access point and that they are exploring other options for access, maybe at Exit 2. Fimbel asked about tying in Strawberry Bank. Tabacsko said it was quite dense in there. Kelly said the challenge is that there is no money.

Lastly, Roache briefly summarized the recently completed Amherst Middle Street Traffic Study and associated intersection analysis conducted using Synchro software (see *Amherst Middle Street Traffic Study, Program Highlights - December 18*).

NASHUA REGIONAL PLAN UPDATE – CHAPTER OUTLINE REVIEW

Diers referred to the Chapter Outlines provided as a handout for the meeting and explained that she was looking for feedback. She added that the staff is starting to write the chapters and the Advisory Committees will review the drafts. She added that the main document will be about 25-30 pages and consisting mostly stories and backed up by technical components and intersecting with other regions. The Existing Conditions and Needs section will have a core metrics portion (50 from each region) with the ability to compare across the state. Diers added that all kinds of input has been gathered, looked at, and analyzed and each chapter will be standalone but cohesive with the Executive Committee looking at the chapters individually to review and provide input. Diers said she anticipates June for a draft to be presented at the June meeting with a public hearing for the September meeting and a 2nd public hearing in December if needed. She added that all are welcome to participate and asked if there were any questions or thoughts. Maddox asked if there would be a disclaimer on the document in regards to vernal pools and where the data came from. Diers said the information is from statewide data and carries a disclaimer. Costantino asked what Scenario Planning is. Diers explained that it is talking with planning boards on what things they see for the future of their towns and

building off of that. She added a suite of options would be created of what the towns want and we will provide examples of how other communities may have dealt with it. Fimbel encouraged the group to read and provide comments on the drafts.

QUARTERLY WORK PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Diers said that most of what is contained in the December 18th Program Highlights has been reviewed or summarized and asked if there were any questions. Langdell asked about Safe Routes to School (SRTS) money. Diers said that SRTS funds have been rolled into a new program and she was waiting for guidance from DOT. She asked Mayville if she had anything to share. Mayville explained that SRTS funding was reimbursable 100/100 for both infrastructure and non-infrastructure and that the last round was just announced and then the program ends. Therefore, any current projects need to be completed. Funding is now 80/20 through a transportation alternatives program which carries a smaller pot of money. Mayville concluded that rollout on the new program will be late winter or early spring.

8:35 PM - COMMISSIONER'S ROUNDTABLE

The Commissioner's Roundtable held at 8:26pm.

ADJOURN

The next NRPC Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Nashua Regional Planning Commission office in Merrimack. Motion to adjourn came from Langdell with a second from Gleason. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted

Kerrie Diers, Official Recorder: _____