



APPROVED – MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Held at the NRPC Office
9 Executive Park, Suite 201, Merrimack, NH
June 17, 2015

Members Present:

Martin Michaelis, Amherst	Richard Maddox, Hudson	Mike Fimbel, Mont Vernon
Mike Dell Orfano, Amherst	Michael Croteau, Litchfield	Dan Kelly, Nashua
Susan Ruch, Amherst	Thomas Young, Litchfield	Sarah Marchant, Nashua
Robert Larmouth, Hollis	Karin Elmer, Merrimack	Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja, Nashua
James Battis, Hudson	Tom Mahon, Merrimack	Dave Hennessey, Pelham
George Hall, Hudson	Janet Langdell, Milford	Kermit Williams

Others Present:

Nancy Mayville, NHDOT	Hal Lynde, EFAC-Pelham
Charlene Takesian, NH State Rep.-Pelham	Kat McGhee, EFAC-Hollis

Staff Present:

Tim Roache, Interim Executive Director	Jen Czysz, Assistant Director
Sara Siskavich, GIS Manager	Karen Baker, Program Assistant

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Chairman Elmer called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM with introductions.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

There were no members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – MARCH 18, 2015

The Chair asked if there were any comments on the minutes of March 18, 2015. Ruch referred to page 5 of the minutes pointing out that the first paragraph under adjourn must have been a cut and paste from a previous set of minutes and should be omitted. Ruch also asked that rail not be overlooked as it was noted in the minutes of March 17th that it would be tabled until the next meeting so the group could become more familiar with it. Roache indicated that due to the heavy agenda and it being the annual meeting, that rail would have to be discussed at the September or December meeting. After further discussion, Young motioned with a second from Williams:

THAT the minutes of March 18, 2015 be approved as amended.

The motion **carried with 2 abstentions.**

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:

a. FY2016 Budget and Work Program (Action Required)

Roache reviewed the budget resources with the Commission providing brief information on individual line items. He talked about the significant reduction in federal funds from last year pointing out the \$17,000 listed for the Healthy Communities grant. He informed the Commission of the Plan 4 Health grant that NRPC would be working on with the City and HEAL on Complete Streets. He talked about expansion of local contracts including continued contracts for Circuit Riding with Litchfield, Mason & Wilton as well as the contracts for continued Master Plan work with Wilton and a new one for Pelham along with the Pelham CIP contract. He informed about the current contracts for tax maps with Hollis and Hudson and the interest from Lyndeborough for Tax Maps. Roache stated that the bulk of the FY16 funds come from a contract with NHDOT and that only \$11,000 comes from the State. Roache moved onto budget expenses saying they don't vary much from year

to year. Roache proceeded by pointing out the new layout for the Budget and Work Program and summarized the achievements from FY15.

Roache moved onto the FY2016 Project initiatives and had Siskavich review the GIS projects. She started by informing the group that MapGeo was moving to a Google platform and will be rolled out in late summer. She talked about STRAVA and the modernization of the NRPC GIS database that will allow multiple GIS people to be working at the same time. Roache reviewed the Transportation Projects speaking first about the TYP and GACIT process, the new Pavement Management Program that will select a town for this pilot program. Roache informed the group the North Bridge Summit will happen this year to determine if a 3rd bridge crossing is necessary. He added that NRPC wants to be effective in facilitating a discussion on this. Roache also talked about the Nashua Transit System Comprehensive Plan project to develop a comprehensive plan for the transit system to identify current services and facilities and prioritize future service expansions specifically replacing their aging bus fleet. Czysz provided a summary of Land Use Projects specifically the Regional Plan Implementation and NRPC's next step is to work towards plan implementation with a focus on supporting local initiatives as well as researching new opportunities to support local and regional goals. She referred to the Office of Energy and Planning Target Block Grant that NRPC will use to tailor education, training, and technical assistance initiatives to implementation of the Regional Plan. She also informed the group of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Grant, the USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program, the Wilton Conservation Plan Update, and the Pelham Master Plan update geared to online outreach support. Czysz also reviewed the Environmental Projects informing the group of the continued Household Hazardous Waste Program and the Regional Competitive Electricity Supply project. She also pointed out the Nashua Region Water Resiliency Planning project, a grant from the US EPA to conduct a vulnerability assessment with a focus on community and water infrastructure resiliency in areas at risk for climate change impacts in the Nashua Region. Lastly Czysz informed the group about the NRPC Hazard Mitigation initiative to amend their hazard mitigation plan template to incorporate climate change considerations.

Dell Orfano asked if there was sufficient reserve for contingencies if something catastrophic was to happen. Roache said there was. Williams asked why professional services were so high in FY2015. Roache explained that it is pass-through funds related to GSF, Broadband & SVTC money. Langdell asked if iTRaC was gone. Roache explained that it is not gone but was rolled into land use and is not functioning the same way. iTRaC projects are now considered special projects in the UPWP and have to meet LPA requirements. Langdell also asked about the Pavement Management Pilot Program and if it was an iPad or a car that would be used and if all data would be compatible with what was done in Milford. Roache said it would be manual with an iPad and that one town in the region would be selected for the pilot program. Langdell asked if the re-launch of the NRPC Live Maps on a Google Platform would be better than what we have now. Siskavich said in the short term; the viewer will have Google imagery but did not necessarily know how old. DOT's aerial imagery will be done in the fall. Williams thought there were 2 levels for DOT imaging and the higher level DOT charges for. Siskavich thought only the regular was available due to the lack of interest in the higher resolution. Kelly asked how the Pavement Management Program works. Roache explained that trained staff will be looking at the pavement making judgements on the condition. The iPads will allow for photos and seamless data collection and entry. After further discussion, Dell Orfano motioned with a second from Mahon:

THAT the Nashua Regional Planning Commission Fiscal Year 2016 Budget and Work Plan be adopted.

The motion passed unanimously.

b. Annual Grant and Contract Authorization (Action Required)

Roache referred to the Annual Grant and Contract Authorization standard language included in the agenda packet and provided a brief explanation. Langdell motioned with a second from Battis:

THAT the Executive Director be authorized to file applications with federal, state and local governmental units and other agencies to implement the FY 2016 work program of the Commission, and to execute agreements to receive funds for such purposes.

The motion carried.

c. Setting of FY2017 Dues (Action Required)

Roache pointed out that NRPC has not proposed an increase in the dues for FY17 and that they remain flat and have for several years at \$163,000. He explained how the dues are calculated based on a weighted average of equalized assessed valuation and population. He added that almost member will see a decrease in dues. The FY17 figures are adopted a year in advance to allow municipalities adequate notice for budgeting for town meeting. After further discussion, it was moved by Battis and seconded by Dell Orfano:

THAT the Nashua Regional Planning Commission FY2017 Local Dues Assessment as presented to the full Commission be approved.

The motion carried.

d. Election of Executive Committee Members (Action Required)

Elmer notified the group of the 3 members of the Executive Committee (EC) whose terms were up (Susan Ruch, Mike Fimbel & Janet Langdell). She informed the Commissioners of the commitment as an EC member as being 1 night meeting a month for a term of 3 years and asked the Commission if anyone would like join an EC. There was no one that wished to join. Elmer informed the group that the 3 members of the executive committee agreed to re-up for another 3 years as members of the EC if no others wished to join. There was no further discussion. Kelly motioned with a second from Young:

THAT Executive Committee members Ruch, Fimbel and Langdell be re-appointed to the EC for another 3 year term.

The motion carried.

e. Election of FY 16 Officers (Action Required)

Roache informed the group about the terms for officers. Elmer was at the end of her term as chair. The nominating committee recommended the following slate of officers. There was no further discussion. Langdell motioned with a second from Kelly:

THAT the new slate of officers to the Executive Committee be David Hennessey as Chair, Mike Fimbel as Vice Chair, and Karin Elmer as Treasurer be approved.

The motion carried.

ENERGY FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EFAC) PRELIMINARY REPORT

Elmer passed around a meeting etiquette document and reviewed with the group as a guide for proper etiquette during presentations on hot topics such as the pipeline. Roache briefly summarized how the EFAC came to be and their charge that has led to this preliminary report and presentation to the Commission on energy facilities in NH. Langdell asked if the presentation would be available online. Roache said yes.

Williams started by providing some background on the EFAC, other representatives and groups involved such as Senator Shaheen's Office, Congresswoman Kuster's Office, LMRLAC, and SoRLAC. He added that it is really going to be a FERC discussion so having Shaheen's & Kuster's offices involved is a big help. Williams started his presentation by providing the EFAC charge. He explained FERC's role as the decision maker and the PL99-3 policy for certificating new construction. Williams presented a Kinder Morgan overview map which showed the supply path and market path components to the project and other proposed facilities. He pointed out the only new compressor station in NH, located in New Ipswich, and an existing compressor station in Pelham. Lynde pointed out that the Pelham compressor station had nothing to do with the proposed pipeline. In response to a question from Langdell, Williams identified the lateral on the map that is in Mason and is part of the proposal. Williams showed an NRPC region map with the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) Pipeline route which would consist of a 36 inch pipe with 14 inch pipe for the proposed lateral, and the existing Tennessee Gas Pipeline facilities in Pelham and Hudson. Williams provided information on the miles of the proposed pipeline for each of the eight towns potentially affected and the existing laterals and their locations. With respect to the new compressor station in New Ipswich, he provided more information of the anticipated facilities to be installed, estimated acreage of compressor station site, total property acreage to be acquired, and property acquisition status.

Hennessey commented that KM denies that there will be effects to property values long term; and asserts the effects would only be felt in the proposal and construction phases. While this may be true, the proposal and construction phases are at least several years long. He added that since they announced the compressor station location for New Ipswich, he lost a sale in New Ipswich and may lose another.

Williams provided detail on the NED project informing the group about the 36" pipe that would produce 2.2 Million Dth/day maximum throughput and 30" pipe that would provide 1.2 million Dth/day with currently 500,000 Dth/day of commitments are in place. He added that an average American home uses 78 Dth/year. He reviewed the schedule that would start in Q4 of 2015 and be in service by November 2018. Williams talked about where the NED gas would go and LNG export projects in the US with greatest potential to come online. He discussed Liberty's agreement with KM, the benefits claimed by Liberty and how the current costs are affected by the bottlenecks. Battis commented that Liberty went before the PUC to validate their contract regarding commitment. He asked how much of a commitment does Liberty have to demonstrate. Williams said there is no number, it has to be financially viable, and that FERC says unused capacity has to be "eaten" by KM and can't be passed on to the customer. Williams added that Liberty noted that gas from the Concord lateral is very expensive and at capacity. . Langdell asked for clarification on gas in NH and where it comes from and stated she would seek out a map Williams pointed out there is a single grid for all of New England for electricity and New England has an aging fleet of electric generation plants. He also referred to the 21 pipeline projects in the northeast and that there is only one in NH (NED). He added that others may provide energy to NH but only the KM project will add pipeline to NH.

There was question on where new customers come from in relation to the 69,000 new household equivalents in the Liberty projection. Williams understood it to be from new projects or interest within their current area and he referred to new projects in Nashua and Merrimack. Mahon confirmed that in Merrimack there are 500 units in the approval process currently and one commercial that want to convert. There was further discussion on this between Williams and Kelly.

Williams touched on the Access Northeast Project a Partnership between Spectra, Eversource, and National Grid that would increase natural gas supplies to power plants by .9 Bcf/day. He proceeded to report on the general concerns around the NED project, and specifically what EFAC learned about these concerns for economic, construction, historic, infrastructure and safety, and environmental impacts of the proposed pipeline. Ruch asked if the Kinder Morgan-provided economic valuation presented was for the town or

properties. Williams said he thought it was properties close to or abutting the pipeline. Lynde commented that he had the Pelham assessor look at the property values near the compressor station in Pelham and found no permanent effect on property values over time, though he agrees there will be impact in the initial stage. Hennessey commented that once it's done, it's done, but that the problem is the length of construction with the pipeline, and in the case of Pelham, that project is happening in tandem with the powerline upgrades. He added that it will effect now and for a six-year window. He added that it is already affecting property values.

Williams moved onto Orderly Development of the Region and quoted NH RSA 162-H:16, IV (a)-(c) compels the NH Site Evaluation Committee to determine that a project:

Will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions and municipal governing bodies.

He added that "Orderly Development" is not formerly defined under NH State Law and therefore:

NRPC EFAC would need to undertake further consideration of criteria that define "orderly development" in order to make a recommendation on this topic.

Kelly asked if the Concord lateral is at capacity, what the alternatives are. Williams provided the 3 alternatives that Liberty had told the EFAC, which would be to join a project like NED, upsize the Concord Lateral, or anticipate a permanent moratorium on growth. Kelly felt (NED) had to be done, and is a practical solution.

Williams reviewed the summary of actions by impacted NRPC communities. Williams informed the Commission that at the June 5, 2015 meeting the EFAC unanimously passed a motion to adopt the following position statement:

"The NRPC EFAC has significant concern that the impacts of the proposed NED project outweigh its perceived benefits based on the information received to date".

Williams provided information on opportunities for further involvement. William's opinion is that the project would likely happen, and he talked about the idea of encouraging communities to become interveners. Ruch asked if the FERC and SEC attorneys agree with the way Williams explained the process of having FERC designate authority to the NH SEC. Williams said he got his information from FERC representative. There was further discussion between Ruch, Mahon and Williams. Lastly, Williams presented the list of EFAC representatives and what their lead role was in the committee.

Hennessey emphasized the name of the Committee as an "Energy Facilities" advisory committee, and pointed out his feeling all along has been that the powerline project should be put on hold until KM and powerline company have come to an agreement. There was further discussion about orderly development of the region for pipeline vs powerline. Mahon indicated that his understanding is that Eversource had not yet heard from KM. Battis talked about their being consideration for the ROW easements. Dell Orfano referred to the Economic Impact slide and asked if there was a potential for industrial development where the metering stations are to be located. Williams said the available metering station information is sparse and tentative at this point in time.. Dell Orfano felt that the SEC should insist on sentiments of community's individuals vs. businesses vs. the EFAC Committee. Langdell referred to the municipal coalition group of 12 of which 5 towns from the NRPC region have signed the letter in opposition of the pipeline. Langdell asked if there is the potential that NH gas needs to be handled in the future by expanding the Concord Lateral. Williams said yes for areas currently by Liberty there is a possibility, but Keene, probably not. He pointed out that KM owns the Concord Lateral. Langdell said she would want to mitigate impacts and felt that you could use what is already there. Lynde said you can't use ROW that is in the existing powerline area. He added that the 12-town municipal association who signed the letter decided to contribute money for an attorney. EFAC member

McGhee had concerns with the filings with PUC, and in particular the business relationship between KM and the parent company of Liberty. She indicated that the case for need in New Hampshire is being made by a subsidiary of KM who will benefit from moving and selling the gas to us. She added that she had talked with ISO NE about capacity and gas generation, and as of this point she has not seen a case for need that justifies 1,400 PSI.

Maddox thanked the EFAC Committee for their work and the great job on getting the facts. He also asked that the presentation be made available via the web ASAP. He added that he pretty much felt that FERC is going to what they are going to do. Langdell asked what reasonably could the rate of depreciation be for the towns. Williams said he had no real easy answer. Langdell said she would like to get that information. Dell Orfano commented that he would like to see some recommendations for metering stations and would rather see disruption once and have a little more capacity now. He added that if the state's economy is to grow, you need to accommodate the energy need. There was discussion on coordination on pipeline projects and that it rarely happens, but FERC did require PNGTS and Maritime to share a line. Young commented that FERC will not allow KM to build for excess capacity. Williams clarified that they could not pass the cost onto consumers if they built above capacity. Croteau asked if the FERC process would include a public comment period. Williams said yes. Croteau said there are a lot of benefits and adverse impacts from this proposed pipeline project and the quality of life issue. Look at what you want as a community in terms of quality of living. Elmer asked if any of the members of the public had any comments or questions. There were none.

9:10 PM - COMMISSIONER'S ROUNDTABLE

No members of the Commission had anything to share at this time. Roache informed the Commission of the recent award presented to the NRPC for Plan of the Year for the Granite State Future Regional Plan.

ADJOURN

The next NRPC Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Nashua Regional Planning Commission office in Merrimack. Motion to adjourn came from Langdell with a second from Dell Orfano. The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted

Tim Roache, Official Recorder: _____