

STRAFFORD

Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Committee Meeting
Combined Meeting of the Stafford EDD & Strafford MPO
Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 15, 2022
9:00 – 11:00 AM
Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Hybrid Meeting
Rochester, NH

1. Introductions

Chair David Landry called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and asked for introductions.

Committee members present: Bill Fisher, Farmington; Peter Nelson, Newmarket; Dawn Genes, Lee; Barbara Holstein, Rochester; Donald Hamann, Rochester, Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth; Rick Michaud, Somersworth; Rad Nichols. COAST; David Landry, Dover;

Committee Members participating remotely: Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Tim White, DES, Steve Diamond, Barrington. Bill Watson, DOT

Staff members present: Jen Czysz,

Staff attending remotely: Megan Taylor-Fetter, Rachel Dewey, Nancy OConnor, Jackson Rand, Natalie Moles, Colin Lentz, Kyle Pimental, Stephen Geis, James Burdin

2. Action Items

a. Preliminary Review of CEDS Project List

James Burdin presented a review of the CEDS draft project list for discussion. He explained that this presentation is the first of three before the final adoption. SRPC staff have been soliciting projects from municipalities to compile into the project list for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). and asked for preliminary vote of approval from the committee.

After discussion

R. Nichols MOTIONED for Preliminary Approval of the CEDS Project List as presented, SECOND by D. Hamann. A roll call Vote was taken: B. Fisher, P. Nelson, B. Holstein, D.

Hamann, M. Bobinsky. R. Nichols, D. Landry . S. Diamond, J. Boudreau. T. White IN FAVOR. D. Genes ABSTAIN. None OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED with a majority of members voting in favor.

D. Landy announced the sad news that Commissioner Victoria Parmele passed away this week. He passed a sympathy card around for members to sign and asked members not present if they would like to include a message with the card to send it to staff member Megan.

3. Action Items

a. Approve Draft Minutes from March 18, 2022

B. Fisher MOVED to approve the Draft minutes from March, 2022. B. Holstein **SECOND**. Discussion: Members pointed out errors regarding attendance. A vote was taken to approve the minutes as amended: B. Fisher, D. Genes, R. Nichols M. Bobinsky, D. Landry, S. Diamond, T. White, J. Boudreau IN FAVOR. P. Nelson, R. Michaud and D. Hamann, B. Watson ABSTAIN, None OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED With a majority of members voting in the affirmative.

4. Discussion items

a. Should MPO Staff Provide Testimony on State Legislation in Development?

C. Lentz presented on state bills that have made it out of the legislative body where they originated and have transferred to either the House or Senate where they are currently in discussion and development, He explained that this is the final phase of the legislative session and asked if members if they would MPO staff to provide specific testimony on any pending legislation.

S. Diamond. In reference to SB344 recommended to advocate for adjustments to RSA 91-a or in the least, for recognition that the language is flexible enough to account for certain individual circumstances where people cannot attend meetings in person..

Discussion ensued with concerns about other bills that need attention particularly bills related to housing needs.

Members discussed the detriment HB 1432 would have on commuter rail in the region and state. The consensus was to advocate for the benefits and value of commuter rail

Discussion also ensued on -hearing next week. Advocate for the need and benefits of commuter rail in the region and state.

D. Hamann MOTIONED to authorize a draft letter that advocates the need and benefits of rail service, to be reviewed and signed off by the Chair. **SECOND** by M. Bobinsky A roll call Vote was taken: B. Fisher, P. Nelson, B. Holstein, D. Genes, D. Hamann, M.

Bobinsky. R. Nichols, D. Landry . S. Diamond, J. Boudreau. T. White all IN FAVOR. None OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED with all in favor.

C. Lentz added that there is value in planning ahead for the next legislative cycle to talk about other than transportation bills, come up with updated policy stances that staff can speak to.

5. Other Business & Update from Staff

Colin Lentz reminder the Commission that staff is compiling a list of potential EV charging sites with federal dollars coming available this fall.

J. Czys reported that the Regional Planning Commissioner had a call with DOT looking to ensure NH is ready and is as competitive as possible for discretionary grant programs.

6. Commissioner Roundtable

Don Hamann reported the Rochester Planning Board approved an EV charging Station on Route 11

Mike Bobinsky reported that the homeless shelters have are now closed for the season. Homelessness continues to be an issue that Somersworth and surrounding communities are dealing with.

B. fisher reported that plans are moving along for the 333 acres of land donated for recreation trails in Farmington.

Steve Diamond informed the Board that due to failure of the electronic application system to process his request for re-appointment to the Barrington Planning Board, he was not appointed and no longer serves on that Board.

Joe Boudreau gave a plug for the Resiliency Sub-Committee and stated there is another Roundtable coming up May 19 at 10:00 a.m.

7. Citizens Forum

There were no citizens attending

Adjournment

M. Bobinsky MOTIONED to adjourn SECONDED by D. Hamann. A roll call Vote was taken: B. Fisher, P. Nelson, B. Holstein, D. Genes, D. Hamann, M. Bobinsky. R. Nichols, D. Landry . S. Diamond, J. Boudreau. T. White all IN FAVOR. None OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED with all in favor.