

Celebrating Fifty-two Years of Service - 1963-2015

Approved by a vote of the Committee – June 9, 2015

**CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee
Meeting Notes
April 15, 2015**

Present: Adam Gaudette, Jim Bates, Robin Craver, Sherry Patch, Tom Gregory, and Tim McInerney
(Quorum - YES)
Staff: Trish Settles
Absent: Leon Gaumont
Guest: Bob Perla, Delegate from Grafton

- 1. Call to order – 2:31pm**
- 2. Review of the November 5, 2014 Minutes – *Motion to accept the minutes of March 18, 2014 made by Sherry Patch, seconded by Jim Bates. All present voted in favor of approving.***

Adam and the rest of the committee recognized that this was Tom Gregory's last meeting since he is leaving his position in Shrewsbury to take new position in Walpole. Everyone thanked him for his contributions and wished him success in his future endeavors.

Adam also recognized a guest Bob Perla, a CMRPC delegate from Grafton. Bob is interested in participating in the Legislative Affairs Committee

- 3. Legislator Open House –** Trish passed out maps of the region's legislators. We will consider pursuing the open house idea after the Spring Event. The group agreed it made sense to do the meetings in clusters roughly aligned with the senate districts.
- 4. Legislative Updates –** There was discussion that Chapter 90 was funded earlier than usual to address potholes and other immediate road repair efforts. Much was still up in the air. The State Budget was anticipated today, April 15. The house budget restored some earlier municipal funding losses. The Senate budget is expected soon.

Trish followed up on an earlier conversation about reviewing a request to take action on the HB 292, a Bill to establish an Office of Rural Policy. She and Sherry will work to complete the survey to answer general questions and then find an appropriate entity to present on behalf of the bill at our next meeting.

Additionally Trish and Adam will similarly work to draft a request for the Executive Committee to take action requesting more regional collaboration on topics such as regional school transportation, regional storm water planning and similar. Trish will check on regional collaboration bills, including investigating whether Community Innovation Challenge Grants have a "replacement" in the new administration. ***A motion was made to request the Executive Committee to draft a letter to legislators seeking the state to promote regional collaboration. Motion was made by Tom, and seconded by Sherry, everyone present voted in favor of the motion.***

Tim asked if others received the survey from the Governor's office about conflicts between policy and practice, such as regional barriers to Economic Development. Tim will forward to everyone for discussion about whether is a unified or coordinated response.

5. Spring Event – Trish apologized but after repeated efforts to connect them, she had no response from Matt Beaton's office on his participation in our Spring Event. She asked for assistance in connecting and getting an answer. Tom Gregory said he would work with Trish over the next couple of days to obtain an answer. We will finalize event agenda at our May meeting

6. New Business – No new business

7. Next meeting date: Wednesday May 13 at 1:30pm in the Grant Conference Room

8. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Adam Gaudette, seconded by Jim Bates, all present voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:25pm.

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