
Approved by a vote of the Committee – May 21, 2014

**CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2014**

Present: Adam Gaudette, Leon Gaumond, Shaun Suhoski, Tom Gregory
(Quorum - yes)
Staff: Trish Settles
Absent: Sherry Patch, Jim Bates
Guest: Denny Drewry, Delegate from Westborough

1. Call to order – 2:09pm

2. Review of the February 19, 2014 Minutes – *Motion made, seconded and all present voted in favor of accepting the minutes of the February 19, 2014 meeting.*

3. Replacement of Kristin Wood – The committee discussed that Kristin Wood’s replacement should be a delegate. Denny was asked whether he might be interested in the appointment and replied that he would be amenable to the appointment. Trish will distribute a list of the CMRPC delegates for the committee to review of possible recommendations.

4. Discussion of action relative to Chapter 90 funding

Larry Adams drafted a letter to Governor Patrick expressing the CMRPC position relative to this bill. ***A motion was made, seconded and all present voted in favor of the following: Motion to authorize sending a copy of the letter to our member towns, to our commission delegates, and our region’s legislative delegation.***

5. Discussion of other possible action relative to pending legislation

The committee considered appropriate action relative to HB 3770 <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/188/House/H3770> as requested by Sherry Patch, the delegate from Hardwick. Briefly the Bill would enact measures that finance information technology equipment and related projects. This bill’s enactment would particularly benefit our more rural communities where access to information technology is more challenging.

There was a discussion about the committees’ process in handling requests that may not benefit all communities equally. A motion was made, seconded and all presented in favor of the following: ***Motion to forward a memo and supporting information regarding the bill to the Executive Committee, noting that the bill was brought to their attention by a delegate***

from the Rural -11 region. The memo should indicate that the Legislative Affairs Committee is not expecting action, but that it is important because it affects some of our region's communities.

The committee decided that it did not need to take any further action regarding the Current Zoning Reform Bill.

The committee also briefly discussed Clause 56 – the personal property tax exemption for Veterans and HB 3773 related to borrowing against State House Notes <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/188/House/H3773>.

6. Spring Event

At our last meeting we discussed that based on the results of the survey, the committee felt it would be appropriate to explore a spring legislative breakfast that focusses on Economic Development. As such they felt that an invitation should be extended to Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development Greg Bialecki to speak. Trish explained that she delayed inviting Sec. Bialecki since the Exec. Committee was considering inviting him to the CMRPC Annual Meeting. They have since decided not to invite him, so it is now okay for us to extend the invitation relative to the Legislative Affairs Breakfast.

It was pointed out that with a change in the administration, he might not be the best choice. The committee then discussed alternate plans for breakfast program. After much discussion, the committee encouraged Trish to reach out to Rosemary Scrivens to develop a program proposal. One scenario was that Rosemary presented an overview of Economic Development in Central Mass and then we have a panel of 3-4 presenters to discuss their projects or programs. Shaun would like an exciting name that might draw an enthusiastic crowd. Other options suggested were Tim McGourthy formerly of Worcester Redevelopment Authority and now of the Worcester Research Bureau or Barry Bluestone of Northeastern University.

7. Next meeting date: May 7, 2014 at 2:00pm at CMRPC

8. Meeting adjourned at 3:17pm.

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