
Approved by a vote of the Committee – **October 1, 2014**

CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2014

Present: Sherry Patch, Adam Gaudette, Leon Gaumont, Tom Gregory, Robin Craver, and Tim McInerney (Quorum - yes)
Staff: Trish Settles
Absent: Jim Bates
Guest: None

1. Call to order – 2:10pm

2. Election of a new chair. Adam agreed to accept the nomination as chair and Robin agreed to accept the nomination as co-chair. ***A motion was made by Leon, seconded by Tom, and all present, vote in favor.***

3. Review of the July 16, 2014 Minutes – Leon, who was not able to attend the spring event, asked how the event went and then noted that we should address the declining participation by legislators at our breakfast events. ***Sherry made a motion, seconded by Tim McInerney, to accept the minutes of July 16, 2014. Motion passed with Leon abstaining.***

4. Legislative Updates. Trish shared the summary provided by MAPC The current session is closed and the legislature is in recess. Many bills were signed. Trish reviewed some of the bills that impacted CMRPC and or its communities, including the Environmental Bond Bill, the Economic Stimulus package, the Water Infrastructure Finance Bill, and the Information Technology Bill. There is a sense that the OPEB and Zoning Reform Bills were close but did not rise as a priority in the final days of the session and will be taken up in the earlier days of the next session. Next year we will hope to release a similar summary.

5. Review process. Leon offered a few suggested edit to the form. Tim suggested developing a survey monkey type of online form that could be made available and put up on the Committee webpage. After the elections we should send a letter to the legislators explaining our new committee charge, and process and encourage them to work with us. We should also send to our member communities at least once a year similarly explaining our new committee charge, and process for committee review and action. Trish will draft a cover letter for the form for review at our next meeting.

6. Fall Event

Bump – The committee decided that a note should be sent to Auditor Bump indicating that they have considered her request, appreciate her offer, but will defer to the executive committee for any further action that might be taken prior to the elections in November.

Public Health and Environmental issues were discussed as possible options for topics of the next Legislative Affairs Breakfast. An environmental focus would allow us the opportunity to provide information and dialogue on water/waste water, agriculture, great ponds, preservation, climate change, etc. A public health focus would allow us the opportunity to provide information and dialogue on the public health alliance, the opiate epidemic, etc.

The group decided that there was more urgency to the public health discussion in December. Sherry will send information regarding some of the Quabbin/Quaboag region substance abuse task forces, particularly those dealing with substance abuse/ opiate addiction. Derek Brindisi of the Public Health Alliance will be contacted to discuss a possible role in the event. New and emerging models of municipal approaches for public health will be showcased.

The chairs of legislative committees¹ will be contacted about their involvement when session recommences.

7. **Next meeting date:** Wednesday October 1st at 2:00pm at CMRPC.

8. Meeting adjourned at 3:20pm.

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¹ Trish's research shows the following:

Chair of the Special Committee on Substance Abuse and Treatment Options is Sen Jennifer Flanagan (Leominster),
Chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse is Joan B. Lovely (Salem) (includes Sen Eldridge of our region);

Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health is John Keenan (Quincy) (includes Carolyn Dykema of our region)