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CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

November 20, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

Attending Officers	Attending Sub-Regional Delegates
Chairperson: Daniel Schur, Westborough	North: Otto Lies, Holden
Vice Chair: Robert Hassinger, Grafton	Southwest: William Trifone, Dudley
Treasurer: Andrew Coles, Auburn	Northeast: Julianne Hirsh, Northborough
Asst. Treasurer: Howard N. Drobner, Boylston	Southeast: Mary Bulso, Blackstone
Clerk: Timothy H. Wheeler, Berlin	Not In Attendance:
Asst. Clerk, Barur Rajeshkumar, West Boylston	Central City: David Quiroa, Worcester
Staff:	West: Jared Grigg, Spencer
Janet A. Pierce, Executive Director	
Sujatha Krishnan, Dep. Dir., Transportation	
Trish Settles, Dep. Dir., RCCP	
Stephanie Toupin, Dep. Dir., Administration	
Dara Griswold, Finance Manager	
Anthony Senesi, Comms. Coordinator	

Call to Order:

Chairperson Schur called the November 20, 2025, Executive Committee meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with a roll call to establish a quorum.

Approval of Minutes-

Motion: to accept the minutes of the October 30, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting.

Made by Mr. Hassinger, seconded by Mr. Rajeshkumar. Roll Call vote. **Motion Unanimously Approved.**

Public Comment:

None.

Executive Director's Report:

- **Administration (Janet Pierce)**
 - Ms. Pierce stated that CMRPC received a technical assistance grant from the State, called TARPA. Ms. Pierce stated that CMRPC is receiving \$174,490.00 to be used to

for technical assistance for applications, project development, financial analysis, and cost-benefit analyses.

- Ms. Pierce stated that the Route 20 Roadway Safety Project is near completion. Ms. Pierce stated that the project was funded by the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) funds.
- Ms. Pierce stated that she is preparing for the FY25 Audit. Ms. Pierce stated that the audit will begin in early December and will be presented to the Executive Committee at the January 2026 meeting. Ms. Pierce stated that CMRPC will be audited by a new firm.

- **Staffing / Human Resources (Stephanie Toupin)**

- Ms. Toupin stated that the Associate Resiliency Planner position has been advertised and CMRPC has received several qualified applicants. Ms. Toupin stated that the applications are currently under review.
- Ms. Toupin stated that last week, the Public Health Trainer, Vincent Goo, resigned from his position at CMRPC.
- Ms. Toupin stated that she is reviewing a proposed Affirmative Action Policy and is working with Counsel to review the draft policy.

- **Transportation (Sujatha Krishnan)**

- Ms. Krishnan stated that the Town of West Boylston is working with CMRPC to review the corridor of Route 12. Ms. Krishnan stated that MassDOT has been brought in to discuss with the Town possible options for the corridor.
- Ms. Krishnan stated that CMRPC Transportation staff will be reaching out to the Town of Berlin regarding their awarded Community One Stop for Growth application regarding a culvert.
- Ms. Krishnan stated that the Town of Sturbridge is researching truck exclusions for some of its local roadways that connect I-84 and I-90.
- Ms. Krishnan stated that the Town of Shrewsbury is investigating the feasibility of installing speed humps.
- Ms. Krishnan stated that Zachary Blais presented at the State-wide GIS Conference regarding the culvert dashboard that was created.
- Ms. Krishnan stated that the recently awarded MassTrails Grant is being kicked off with MAPC, and the towns of Blackstone, Mendon, and Bellingham.
- Ms. Krishnan stated that the Housing and Transportation Study has been holding successful sub-regional meetings. Ms. Krishnan stated that feedback and engagement in all subregions have been very positive. Ms. Krishnan stated that CMRPC has been invited to present to the towns of Southbridge and Princeton.
- Ms. Krishnan stated that the Central Massachusetts Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) project is ongoing, and there will be a presentation regarding the progress at the January 2026 Quarterly Meeting.

- Ms. Krishnan stated that significant community outreach and engagement are occurring for the Vernon Connected project in Worcester.
- Ms. Krishnan stated that the TIP project selection season has begun.
- Mr. Rajeshkumar described a road in his community that may need a truck exclusion. Ms. Krishnan stated that recently, MassDOT has been strict on excluding trucks from public roadways.
- Ms. Bulso described wanting to connect bus services to her area in and around the Town of Blackstone. Ms. Bulso noted that there are veterans who need services in Worcester who cannot access them completely. Ms. Krishnan stated that RCCP and Transportation are working to create a DLTA project to research transportation options within the Blackstone Valley.
- **Regional Collaboration and Community Planning (Trish Settles)**
 - Ms. Settles stated that TARPA is replacing DLTA-A funds. Ms. Settles stated that TARPA funds can be utilized to apply for federal funding.
 - Ms. Settles stated that the Paul Bruhn Historic Preservation Program grant for Central Massachusetts municipalities is underway with MRPC as the fiduciary agent.
 - Ms. Settles stated that the Town of Oxford is in the process of contracting with CMRPC to complete its Master Plan. Ms. Settles stated that CMRPC will be working with the Town of Uxbridge on the Master Plan update.
 - Ms. Settles stated that CMRPC is awaiting an award decision for the Town of Sturbridge's Hazard Mitigation technical assistance.
 - Ms. Settles stated that RCCP staff are working with the Regional Environmental Council (REC) and the City of Worcester to bring food security options to the aging populations in the City.
 - Ms. Settles stated that CMRPC was asked to do a Housing Needs Assessment in the Piedmont/Pleasant Street neighborhood in Worcester.
 - Ms. Settles and Kerrie Salwa met with the Worcester Business Development Corporation and the EPA Region One Administrator regarding the Saint Gobain development area.
 - Ms. Settles stated that RCCP staff attended the SNEAPA Conference in Rhode Island.
 - Ms. Settles stated that CMRPC staff are assisting the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative to host webinars for Planning Board and Zoning Board members.
 - Ms. Settles stated that CMRPC is a co-host for the 495 MetroWest Partnership Conference in Marlborough.

Approval of Warrant for Payment of Bills and Review of Financial Statements:

Ms. Griswold presented Warrant 26-05 for the payment of bills as required by Section 7, Chapter 40B, for the month of November, totaling \$172,778.60.

- **Motion:** to approve Warrant 26-05 for the month of November in the amount of \$172,778.60. Made by Mr. Hassinger, seconded by Ms. Hirsh.
- Roll call vote. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Committee and Sub-Regional Briefings:

- **Transportation** – No update.
- **Legislative Affairs** – Mr. Senesi stated that there will be a Legislative Affairs Forum in early 2026 regarding drinking water or wastewater treatment.
- **Physical Development** - Mr. Wheeler stated that the Physical Development Committee will review proposals on December 17, 2025.
- **Personnel** – Ms. Toupin stated that she is working with Counsel to review an Affirmative Action Policy. Ms. Toupin stated that once it is reviewed, it will be brought to the Personnel Committee.
- **SWCEDO** – Ms. Pierce stated that SWCEDO met this month.
- **Bylaw Review** - Mr. Schur stated that there is currently a review being done of other RPA bylaws.
- **Sub-regional**– Chairperson Schur asked if there were any updates
 - Mr. Rajeshkumar stated that West Boylston is seeking a new Town Administrator.
 - Mr. Wheeler stated that he attended the Northeast Housing & Transportation Study meeting, and he found the information highly informative.

New Business:

- Ms. Pierce requested that the Personnel Committee review her position's contract.

Adjournment: Having completed all business Chairperson Schur adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Anthony Senesi, CMRPC.

Documents:

- Minutes from October 30, 2025
- Warrant November 2025 26-05