

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

January 11, 2024, Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Hybrid (In-Person & Virtual) Meeting

1 Mercantile Street, Worcester, MA 01608

Attending Officers		Attending Sub Regional Delegates
Chairperson: Howard N. Drobner, Boylston		North: Otto Lies, Holden
Vice Chair: Robert Hassinger, Grafton		Southeast: Walter Baker, Sutton
Treasurer: Daniel Schur, Westborough		
Clerk: Timothy Wheeler, Berlin		
CMRPC Delegates and Alternates		
Brandon Avery, North Brookfield		Meg Haight, Hardwick
Joe Belrose, Blackstone		Robert King, Oxford
Mary Bulso, Blackstone		Timothy Nahrwold, Rutland
Richard Clark, Dudley		Ann Neuburg, Princeton
Andrew Coles, Auburn		Purna Rao, Shrewsbury
Michelle Conlin, Shrewsbury		Stephen Rolle, Worcester
John Daniel, Southbridge		Sierra Smarra, Auburn
Marc Frieden, West Boylston		William Talcott, Sutton
David George, Holden		William Trifone, Dudley
Jared Grigg, Spencer		Jean Vincent, Charlton
Guests		
Chris Gorman		Cassidy Yates, Weston & Sampson
Grace Brownell		Jeannie Hebert, Blackstone Valley Chamber
Michael Suprenant		Madison Biasin, Weston & Sampson
CMRPC Staff		
Janet Pierce	Sujatha Krishnan	Trish Settles
Anthony Senesi	Robert Raymond	Nathan Lewis
Ian McElwee	Greer Jarvis	Kevin Krasnecky
Will Talbot	Matt Franz	Adam Wriggins
Yahaira Graxirena	Zachary Blais	

1. Business Meeting:

Chairperson Howard Drobner called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. noting the presence of a quorum. Communications Manager, Anthony Senesi conducted a roll call of CMRPC delegates and alternates.

- *Approval of Minutes:* Timothy Wheeler motioned to approve the minutes from the Quarterly Commission Meeting on November 9, 2023. Robert Hassinger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with fourteen (14) abstentions.

- *Chairperson's Welcome:* Chairperson Drobner welcomed the attendees and detailed the new upgraded hybrid meeting technology that CMRPC acquired recently and is testing the enhancements at this meeting.

2. Adoption of the FY25 Assessment Schedule as Recommended by the Executive Committee:

Ms. Pierce described what the Assessment Schedule is and how it is a funding source for the operating budget for CMRPC. Ms. Pierce stated that the increase from the FY24 Assessment Schedule to FY25 is the maximum, 2.5%. Daniel Schur moved to adopt the FY25 Assessment Schedule as presented, seconded by Robert Hassinger. **Motion Approved by roll call.**

3. Request Volunteers for Budget Subcommittee Formation: Joe Belrose and Robert King stated their interest in becoming members of the Budget Subcommittee for the discussion of the FY25 CMRPC Operating Budget.

4. Welcome and New Business:

- Ms. Pierce described the results of a recent survey that was sent to CMRPC delegates and alternates. Ms. Pierce stated that there was significant interest in holding hybrid quarterly meetings.
- Ms. Pierce described the details of the CMRPC Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner at Wachusett Mountain, in the Town of Princeton, on June 13, 2024.
- Ms. Pierce stated that Matthew Deiulis, Administrative Assistant, recently left his role at CMRPC. Ms. Pierce described several staffing updates including the creation of the Human Resources Manager position. Ms. Pierce stated that the business manager position will be filled in the coming weeks.
- Ms. Pierce stated that grant information was included in CMRPC's monthly newsletter.
- Ms. Pierce described the upcoming round of District Local Technical Assistance and requested that if municipalities have an interest in submitting an application that they contact Trish Settles, Deputy Executive Director.

5. Presentation: Reducing Climate Pollution in Southern Worcester County

Mr. McElwee, Principal Resiliency Planner, gave a presentation regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, which CMRPC is a project lead for the entirety of Worcester County and portions of northeast Connecticut. Mr. McElwee described the several community workshops that are being held to gather input from the public regarding climate pollution. Mr. McElwee gave the opportunity at the end of the presentation for a brainstorming session with attendees. Mr. McElwee asked attendees to generate project ideas that could be implemented regionally to reduce climate pollution. Mr. McElwee stated that these project ideas would be incorporated into a Priority Climate Action Plan, which will outline future projects that CMRPC will apply for funding for from the EPA.

6. Adjournment of Official Business Meeting:

Robert Hassinger made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 pm, Jean Vincent seconded the motion. **Motion approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Anthony Senesi, CMRPC

Approved by CMRPC Commissioners on March 14, 2024, at the March 2024 Quarterly Meeting

Timothy Wheeler, Clerk, CMRPC Executive Committee