

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

January 12, 2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Zoom Virtual Meeting

<b>Attending Officers</b>		<b>Attending Sub Regional Delegates</b>
Chairperson Barur Rajeshkumar, West Boylston		Southwest: William Trifone, Dudley
Vice Chair Howard Drobner, Boylston		West: Jeffrey Howland, New Braintree
Clerk Timothy Wheeler, Berlin		Southeast: Walter Baker, Sutton
Treasurer, Otto Lies, Holden		Northeast: Julianne Hirsh, Northborough
Asst. Clerk, Robert Hassinger, Grafton		
Asst. Treasurer, C. Richard Williams, Rutland		
<b>CMRPC Delegates and Alternates</b>		
Jeffrey Adams, Sturbridge		Ann Neuburg, Princeton
Mary Bulso, Blackstone		Richard Clark, Dudley
Joe Belrose, Blackstone		John Boyce, Holden
Richard Clark, Dudley		David George, Holden
Meg Haight, Hardwick		Michael Jaquith, East Brookfield
Sean Kowalczyk, East Brookfield		Stephen Rolle, Worcester
Rachel Pressey, Auburn		Michael Jaquith, East Brookfield
Eli Laverdiere, Uxbridge		Sharon Mahoney
Purna Rao, Shrewsbury		Jean Vincent, Charlton
Todd Kirrane, Auburn		William Talcott, Sutton,
<b>Guests</b>		
Jeff Bridges, Spencer		Sean Hendricks, Millbury
Pamela Harding, Worcester		Jeffrey Turgeon, MassHire
Michelle Smith, Worcester		
<b>CMRPC Staff</b>		
Samuel Carter	Ed Bromage	Yahaira Graxirena
Elena Ion	Greer Jarvis	Sujatha Krishnan
Ian McElwee	Robert Raymond	Janet Pierce
Faye Rhault	Connor Robichaud	Kerrie Salwa
Trish Settles	Diane Shea	Matthew Deiulis

**1. Business Meeting**

Chairman Barur Rajeshkumar called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. noting the presence of a quorum. Janet Pierce conducted a roll call of CMRPC delegates and alternates.

- *Approval of Minutes:* Charles Richard Williams motioned to approve the minutes from the Quarterly Commission Meeting on November 10, 2022. Bob Hassinger seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote, with seven (7) abstentions.
- *Vote to adopt Fiscal Year 2024 Community Assessment Schedule:* Charles Richard Williams motioned to adopt Fiscal Year 2024 Community Assessment Schedule. Eric Vollheim seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by roll call.

- *Fiscal year 2024 Budget Subcommittee Volunteers:* Ms. Pierce made a short statement noting the responsibilities for any prospective volunteers. Chairman Raj noted that anyone that would like to volunteer can do so over the chat or email Ms. Pierce after the meeting.
- **Welcome and New Business:**
- Janet Pierce, CMRPC Executive Director, welcomed attendees to the virtual CMRPC January Quarterly Meeting. Janet thanked the attendees of the meeting for their presence and thanked the CMRPC Teams for dedicating time to make a presentation. Janet noted that the official business meeting will adjourn after her welcome. Presentations will be made by staff speakers, who will then invite attendees to ask questions.
- Ms. Pierce announced that in late December 2022 CMRPC has been awarded with Economic Development District designation by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Ms. Pierce also thanked the communities for their support in obtaining this status.
- Ms. Pierce noted that the assessment schedule would be uploaded to the CMRPC website the day following this meeting; emailed to Town Administrators and Town Planners; and mailed via certified mail sometime in February as required by CMRPC by-laws.
- Ms. Pierce announced that the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)* was awarded funding through the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for a five-year contract to update the CEDS throughout the region- the completion date is set for June 30, 2023 and it will then be approved by the EDA.
- Ms. Pierce spoke on the importance of population projections to regional and community planning- she noted is especially true for the *Long-Range Transportation (LRTP)*, which staff will be making a presentation about later in the quarterly meeting and for which input is important.

## 2. Adjournment of Official Business Meeting:

Charles Richard Williams made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Bob Hassinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote, and the business meeting adjourned. The presentations and discussions continued off record.

## 3. Presentations:

Ms. Pierce invited Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director of Transportation, to introduce CMRPC staff and the two topics they will be presenting on. The presentations included "*Central Mass Regions' Growth*" and "*Age Friendly Central Massachusetts*". The former presentation: focused on 2050 population projections; how these projections factor into the LRTP; which agencies are involved in the population projections; the workflow for population projections; the hierarchy of population projections; population forecasting methodologies; future population projections; national population trends and CMRPC's population forecasting. The latter presentation: focused on the *Age Friendly Initiative*; provided an overview of the initiative; Central Massachusetts' population and aging projections; Central Massachusetts' communities varying degrees of age-friendly communities; Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative's (MHAC) collaboration; the steps needed to pursue an *Age Friendly Designation*; project timeline; AARP age friendly

framework; CMRPC's Age Friendly Central Mass Action Plan and its many facets and their respective goals.