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CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee Minutes

July 11, 2023 – 9:00 am
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Attending: Andrew Golas (Chair) - Charlton, Mary Bulso – Blackstone, David Quiroa – Worcester, Jen Callahan – Oxford, William Trifone - Dudley

Absent:

Staff: Ethan Melad

Guests: None

Quorum: Yes

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting began at 9:03am

2. **Review of June 23, 2023 LAC Forum**

The group responded favorably to the event, and agreed that the conversation was both needed and well received. It was good to see representation at the event from a broad geographical area.

There was some discussion around housing issues and initiatives in the region: Mary mentioned a program in RI offering free Voc. Tech education to refugees which could be replicated in the area; Jen spoke of a possible \$25M for Housing Infrastructure program similar to/alongside MassWorks.

Consideration of follow-up discussion to include Sec. Augustus; offer to sponsor regional talk/town hall, if one is planned. Also possibility to host virtual follow-up with Sec. Augustus in attendance.

3. **Discussion/Legislative updates**

Not much movement on the Hill, budget still in debate. Jen mentioned a bill for possible advocacy which supports equity for rural communities' affordable housing development.

4. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Jen, seconded by Mary. Meeting ended 9:19am

Respectfully Submitted by
Ethan Melad - CMRPC