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CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee Minutes

September 12, 2023 – 9:00 am
Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

Absent: Jen Callahan – Oxford

Staff: Ethan Melad- CMRPC, Connor Robichau- CMRPC, Ian McElwee- CMRPC

Guests: None

Quorum: Yes

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting began at 9:05am

2. **Approval of minutes of 7/11/23:**

Motion to approve made by Bill, seconded by David. Passes unanimously.

3. **Legislative update:**

Ethan provided updates on a few items:

- State budget passed and signed by Gov. Healy on Aug. 9.
- DLTA was funded at \$3M, with additional \$2M for RPAs to assist municipalities with Federal funding opportunities
- Bills S1489/H3802: An Act creating a Municipal and Public Safety Building Authority will have a public hearing on Weds. Sept. 13th. Andrew drafted a letter of support, and it was submitted on behalf of the LAC & Charlton. Connor mentioned CMRPC has been conducting outreach and a number of other towns also submitted testimony.
- Water safety for private wells bill (S.482/H.902) will be on Joint Comm. on Environment & Natural Resources hearing docket Wednesday September 27, participation/testimony requested
- At recent RPAC meeting Rep. Blais discussed proposed bill to add rurality factor to Ch. 90 funding; bill would increase funding by \$25M and require a percentage of that \$ be allocated to rural communities.
- Efficiency & Regionalization/Community Compact program was funded at \$600k, down from \$2M
- There was a hearing on PFAS bill on 6/21/23, unsure of current status

4. Discuss December Forum Topics :

Ian McElwee discussed and proposed the topic of addressing the solid waste crisis. Members of state recycling coordination team and other advocates are available and will help with coordination, as events in other areas have had similar focus. Amherst's event was titled 'Overcoming the Solid Waste Crisis'

- Ian mentioned bills H.823 – An Act Relative to Paint Recycling and H.3690 An Act to Expand the Bottle Bill as bills to be aware of

Mary, Andrew and Bill all voiced support for the topic, and mentioned things like issue of individual waste collection vs. town collection & tax inclusion.

Motion to select this topic for the Forum made by Bill, seconded by Mary. Passed unanimously.

5. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Mary, seconded by Bill. Meeting ended 9:29am

Respectfully Submitted by
Ethan Melad - CMRPC