

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

November 09, 2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Zoom Virtual Meeting

<b>Attending Officers</b>		<b>Attending Sub Regional Delegates</b>
Chairperson: Howard N. Drobner, Boylston		North: Otto Lies, Holden
Vice Chair: Robert Hassinger, Grafton		Northeast: Julianne Hirsh, Northborough
Treasurer: Daniel Schur, Westborough		Southeast: Walter Baker, Sutton
Clerk: Timothy Wheeler, Berlin		West: Jeffrey Howland, New Braintree
Asst. Clerk: Barur Rajeshkumar, West Boylston		Southwest: Andrew Coles, Auburn
<b>CMRPC Delegates and Alternates</b>		
Brandon Avery, North Brookfield		Robert King, Oxford
Joe Belrose, Blackstone		Sean Kowalczyk, East Brookfield
David Bloom, Paxton		Eli Laverdiere, Uxbridge
John Boyce, Holden		Ann Neuburg, Princeton
Mary Bulso, Blackstone		Purna Rao, Shrewsbury
Richard Clark, Dudley		Meg Schlesman, Douglas
William Cole, Hardwick		Taylor Stedman, Sturbridge
Andrew Coles, Auburn		William Talcott, Sutton
John Daniel, Southbridge		William Trifone, Dudley
Marc Frieden, West Boylston		Jean Vincent, Charlton
David George, Holden		Michael Wilkes, Northbridge
Meg Haight, Hardwick		Pamela Williams, Millville
<b>Guests</b>		
Carolyn MacDonald		
Laura Ziton		
<b>CMRPC Staff</b>		
Janet Pierce	Sujatha Krishnan	Trish Settles
Matthew Deiulis	Kerrie Salwa	Constance Mellis
Richard Rydant	Tyler Distefano	Kevin Krasnecky
Eric Gemperline		

**1. Business Meeting:**

Chairperson Howard Drobner called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. noting the presence of a quorum. Executive Director Janet Pierce conducted a roll call of CMRPC delegates and alternates.

- *Approval of Minutes:* Barur Rajeshkumar motioned to approve the minutes from the Quarterly Commission Meeting on September 14, 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 recent Executive Committee discourse which pertained to the Legislative Affairs Sub-Committee and the potential of involving the quarterly commission’s attendees in

approving CMRPC's pursuit of a variety of planning and funding opportunities. Chairperson Drobner explained that the Legislative Affair Sub-Committee will draft an updated charter for the Executive Committee to consider in time to present it at the January Quarterly Meeting. He added that Ms. Pierce would be creating a survey for the full commission to provide input on what matters they would like to hear about at Quarterly Meetings. Details on this survey would be provided soon.

- 2. Adoption of the 2023-2028 Southern Worcester County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):** Following a brief recounting of the importance, purpose, and intent of the CEDS by Kerrie Salwa, Director of Economic Development from RCCP, Robert Hassinger moved to adopt the 2023-2028 Southern Worcester County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), seconded by Jeffrey Howland. **Motion Approved by roll call, with two (2) abstentions and one (1) no vote.**

**3. Welcome and New Business:**

- Ms. Pierce welcomed and thanked the attendees for the votes of support for the 2023-2028 CEDS and invited guests to reach out to Kerrie and her staff about potential EDA opportunities.
- Ms. Pierce began her report by encouraging the attendees, if they haven't already, to subscribe to the CMRPC newsletter- and look at the many available grants at the bottom of the newsletter- as well as inviting attendees to partake in upcoming Citizen Planner Training Collaborative's fall webinars.
- Ms. Pierce closed by once again thanking the Commission for their support for the CEDS and CMRPC's tremendous growth in staff and our scope of work over the last year.

**4. Presentations:**

Ms. Pierce invited Richard Rydant to introduce WRTA's Public Transit Administrator, Joshua Rickman, and other transportation staff, whom all presented a comprehensive report of '*all things transportation*'. The presenters covered a transit overview, what the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO), the importance, purpose, and application of Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), current available data services- traffic counts, travel time studies, culvert assessments, etc.- and what is next for the CMRPC Transportation Division. Staff took a variety of questions and provided answers during the presentation over the call as well as in the '*ZOOM*' chat.

**5. Adjournment of Official Business Meeting:**

Barur Rajeshkumar made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 pm, Sean Kowalczyk seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call with four (4) no votes, and the business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Deiulis, CMRPC

Approved by CMRPC Commissioners on January 11, 2024 at January 2024 Quarterly Meeting

---

Howard Drobner, Chair, CMRPC Executive Committee  
In the absence of Timothy Wheeler, Clerk