

MINUTES
STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 9, 2007
Conference Room
Strafford Regional Planning Commission
2 Ridge Street
Dover, NH

Members Present: Edmund Jansen, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Rollinsford; Frank Torr, Dover; Bruce Woodruff, Milton; Kenn Ortmann, Rochester.

Members Absent: Al Dixon, Chairman, Newmarket; Thomas Crosby, Secretary-Treasurer, Madbury.

Proxy Votes: Thomas Crosby, Secretary-Treasurer, Madbury.

Staff Present: Cynthia Copeland, Linda Osburn.

Vice Chairman Jansen called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM. He noted the quorum with the proxy vote from Thomas Crosby.

1. Minutes

Vice-Chairman Jansen entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2007 Executive Committee meeting. Ortmann made the motion to approve the February 9, 2007 minutes as written. Torr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Draft Financial Reports February 2007

Copeland reviewed the draft February financial reports including the income and expense accounts. She noted that there were only 18 working days in February due to snow days.

3. Executive Director Report

Copeland distributed the March Executive Director report. She discussed the Senior Transportation Planner advertisement and the responses received to date. Copeland discussed the proposals received for Phase II of the Route 125 Corridor Study.

Copeland stated that the Project Solicitation letters had been sent out to the communities and the Public Participation Plan would be sent out to those underserved by transportation. She stated that Abbott was working on the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the model update. Copeland stated she would be preparing an RFP to solicit proposals to complete the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan. She stated that next month would be busy with project solicitations, the public participation plan update, and the two-year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) budget and work plan. Copeland stated that Ortmann managed to obtain the City Council vote for approval of

the redesignation of the Seacoast Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). She stated she would be scheduling meetings in March and April with Town Councils and Boards of Selectmen regarding the MPO redesignation. Ortmann discussed the questions asked in Rochester regarding the redesignation.

Woodruff joined the meeting at 7:55 AM.

4. Collaborative Efforts with State Agencies and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGO)

Copeland stated that she attended the House of Representatives Finance Committee hearing held on March 8 in Rochester. She distributed a letter she sent to the Chair of the committee requesting additional state funding for the Targeted Block Program that discussed increased expenses and population but level funding for the past several years. Discussion regarding affordable housing and conservation bills and funding for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) followed.

Copeland discussed her meeting with Jennifer Hunter of the NH Estuaries Program and their collaborative planning strategies. Ortmann and Woodruff discussed the opportunities to collaborate with local newspapers and cable shows.

5. On-going and Emerging Regional Planning Issues Roundtable

a. MPO Reorganization.

Copeland stated that Rochester had approved the MPO redesignation. Woodruff requested a copy of the Rochester resolution to use in Dover and Milton

b. Proposed Legislation

Copeland distributed copies of SB 217, HB 319, HB 383, HB 390, HB 457, BH 458, HB 459, and HB 663. She distributed position letters written by the NH Association of Regional Planning Commission regarding these bills introduced in the NH House of Representatives and the NH Senate. Ortmann discussed HB 217 regarding open space and workforce affordable housing. Copeland discussed the potential of developers contacting land trusts to sell approved subdivision projects during a sluggish housing market.

6. Executive Director Evaluation

Ortmann asked Vice-Chairman Jansen if he would be a member of the Executive Director evaluation committee. Vice-Chairman Jansen agreed, and Ortmann stated he would set up a meeting. Copeland stated that she was not able to find the goals and objectives for this current fiscal year. She stated she would contact past Chairman Tom Fargo, and if unable to locate a copy, she would write up her current accomplishments and next year's goals for the committee.

7. Other Business

Ortmann suggested a thank you letter, signed by the Executive Directors of Rockingham Planning Commission and Strafford Regional Planning Commission, be sent to the Rochester City Council for their affirmation of the MPO reorganization. Woodruff asked if Ortmann had presented the MPO redesignation to the Rochester Planning Board before presenting the redesignation to the Rochester City Council. Ortmann stated that he had presented the redesignation to the Rochester Planning Board

first, and discussed one councilor's support of redesignation of the regional planning commissions rather than the redesignation of the MPO. Ortmann stated that the NH Office of Energy and Planning reviews the planning commission boundaries, and the MPO redesignation issue was a separate issue.

No other business was discussed.

Vice-Chairman Jansen entertained a motion to adjourn. Ortmann made the motion to adjourn and Torr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Osburn
Bookkeeper

Minutes approved on _____, 2007.

By:

Alphonse Dixon, Chairman