

Central NH Regional Planning Commission
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CNHRPC Full Commission Meeting
APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 13, 2017
7:00pm

Attendees: Matthew Hicks, City of Concord
Bruce Crawford, Town of Boscawen
Jim Bibbo, Town of Bradford
Harry Wright, Town of Bradford
Tyson Miller, Town of Canterbury
Clarke Kidder, Town of Hopkinton
Tia Hooper, Town of Henniker
Stanley Prescott, Town of Loudon
Bob Cole, Town of Loudon
Jim Pritchard, Town of Pittsfield
Ted Mitchell, Town of Pittsfield
Mike O’Meara, Town of Allenstown
Ken Milender, Town of Warner
Stephen Buckley, Town of Bow

CNHRPC Staff: Michael Tardiff, Executive Director
Craig Tufts, Principal Planner/GIS Planner
Dean Williams, Transportation Planner
Sam Durfee, Regional Planner
Joanne Cassulo, Project Planner

The meeting began at 7:03 P.M., called to order by CNHRPC Chair, Tyson Miller (Canterbury).

Presentation: Steve Falbel, Steadman Hill Consulting, Inc.

Topic: Transit Planning in Central NH – Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment & Concord – Franklin Transit Feasibility Study

Steve Falbel introduced himself and began with an update to the ongoing Statewide Strategic Transit Assessment by stating the goals and five phases of the assessment as well as the completed tasks. He then painted a picture of the upcoming work which includes summaries of RPC meetings, evaluation of service proposals, a Park & Ride evaluation and plan, performance measure framework and an intercity bus plan.

Mr. Falbel then summarized the Concord-Franklin Transit Study and explained the goals of the study and the key elements consisting of market analysis, stakeholder outreach, public outreach and survey, service concepts, ridership forecast, cost estimation and a financial plan. He explained that at this time, based on potential route alignments, demand, and funding opportunities, a bus route connecting Franklin to Concord via US 3 and I-93 through Boscaawen is not feasible at this time, but with buy in from communities and other partners in conjunction with a successful 5311(f) application, the route could be feasible in the future.

Q: What vehicle would be serving the route?

A: A standard CAT, 18-person bus.

Q: Was there any consideration of the addition of 70 beds to the county jail facility?

A: The county complex was looked at as a whole and did not specifically consider the 70-bed addition.

Q: How would it be possible to meet the required match for 5311(f) funds if one or more communities don't buy in?

A: With full participation, the route would not be feasible.

Q: What about the role of an Uber-type business meeting the current transportation needs?

A: The study didn't look at the level of service Uber provides in the Concord area and the cost to customers for such a service is far greater than public transportation.

Q: Car ownership seems to be going down, would that have an effect on transit demand?

A: In cities, yes, but in more rural and suburban communities, people still rely heavily on cars.

Mid-State RCC and Volunteer Driver Program Update

Dean Williams provided a brief explanation of the role of the Mid-State RCC and its administration of the Volunteer Driver Program (VDP) and stated that the annual challenge is finding the 20% local match, roughly \$20,000, for the 5310 monies the group receives. The program is short on drivers as it is a popular program for those who are eligible which are people with disabilities and seniors over 60. The service is free to riders, though a donation is appreciated. The average trip costs \$18 and drivers are reimbursed on the miles they drive.

Q: Is there a possibility of opening the program to people under 60 and not disabled and have them pay to help raise money for the match?

A: It comes down to the lack of drivers. If there are barely enough to serve the current demand, others looking for rides, even if willing to pay, take service away from those who need it most.

Q: Could Medicare/Medicaid pay for the rides?

A: Medicare/Medicaid have their own transport system, they are just now coming to the table to talk about the VDP. There may be a solution in the future.

CNHRPC Developments of Regional Impact Review Guidelines – Consideration of Adoption

Matt Monahan provided the full commission with a handout and update relative to developments of regional impact (DRIs) and the process through which they are determined and dealt with. All projects must be voted on by the overseeing board or department as to whether it has a regional impact. If it is determined a project has a regional impact, the abutting town(s) and the RPC need to be notified and (only in Merrimack County) sign off on the project. At the following meeting, the application may continue and any comments from the RPC and town(s) must be considered.

Q: How many towns does the planning board need to notice if the development abuts a river, which could essentially impact many towns?

A: It is the planning boards discretion to notify whom they feel appropriate.

Q: Do you have to notify abutting towns for a zoning change?

A: It is not necessary, but it could be a good idea as they may be some benefit in doing so.

Q: Are the timing and means of notification a recommendation or statutory?

A: Statutory.

Q: What body in the abutting town is to be notified?

A: The corresponding board.

Mr. Monahan will send out an updated summary sheet on DRIs via email once the full commission's thoughts have been incorporated.

A motion was made to table the issue until next meeting.

M/S/P Clark Kidder/Stephen Buckley/Passed Unanimously

2017 Land Use Law Update

Stephen Buckley provided a handout that summarized new changes to land use law in 2017. Mr. Buckley provided a brief explanation of each change, ten in all.

Q: Relative to changes in septic system approval requirements, is it just a plan that needs to be approved or will a new system need to be installed?

A: A Licensed Septic Technician will need to make that determination.

Minutes of the June 8, 2017 Full Commission Meeting

The minutes were reviewed, and a motion was made to accept the minutes.

M/S/P Bruce Crawford/Jim Bibbo/Passed Unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Michael Tardiff provided the Treasurer's report and reviewed the Profit and Loss statement for CNHRPC. Mr. Tardiff noted that the Commission is in the black by \$310.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

M/S/P Harry Wright/Stanley Prescott/Passed Unanimously