

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

103 Main Street, Suite #3
 Meredith, NH 03253
 tel (603) 279-8171
 fax (603) 279-0200
 www.lakesrpc.org



MINUTES
LRPC COMMISSION MEETING
 Southern New Hampshire University
 Gilford, NH
 February 23, 2009

PRESIDING: Robert Snelling, Chairman **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 PM

QUORUM: Yes **COMMUNITIES PRESENT:** 20

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Maggie LaBerge, Alexandria
 Dan McLaughlin, Alexandria
 John Cotton, Andover
 David Kerr, Barnstead
 Steve Favorite, Bristol
 Phyllis Taylor, Danbury
 Anne Cunningham, Freedom
 Richard Wait, Gilford
 Stan Bean, Gilmanton
 Martha Twombly, Hebron
 Robert Snelling, Holderness
 Warren Hutchins, Laconia
 William Bayard, Meredith
 Herbert Vadney, Meredith
 Barbara Perry, Moultonborough
 Herb Farnham, Moultonborough
 Wayne Crowley, Northfield
 Douglas Read, Northfield
 Robert Butcher, Sandwich
 Susan Mitchell, Sandwich
 Herb Cooper, Tamworth
 Roger Murray, III, Wolfeboro

OTHERS PRESENT: Sen. Deb Reynolds, Rep. Betsy Patten (Moultonborough), Robert Gillette (Ossipee), Dave Senecal (Wolfeboro), Carole Hall (Gilford), Wayne Hall (Gilford), Leigh Webb (Franklin/Hill), John Morgenstern (Gilford), Polly Safacon (Gilford), Sam Perry (Moultonborough), Kimon Koulet, Marie Gelinas, LRPC; other interested parties.

Excused: Dr. Patricia Jones (Ossipee)

1 Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Robert Snelling called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m., and welcomed all members. He asked for a motion for those present to constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business, the motion was unanimously approved. *M/S/P Wait/LaBerge*

2 Minutes of November 17, 2009 Commission Meeting

Chairman Robert Snelling asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the November 17, 2009 meeting minutes. He noted a correction to the minutes on Page 2, item 3 Wind Energy Applications and Installation in NH, lines 8 and 9, sentence should read as follows: *Small turbines produce DC power that must be converted to grid quality AC power.* There being no other corrections, the minutes were unanimously approved as corrected. *M/S/P Hutchins/Waite*

R. Snelling said that a letter and survey questionnaire was sent to all commissioners asking them to meet with their municipal officials to obtain a town consensus on what challenges face their community and what priorities they feel LRPC should focus on for FY2010, and submit the data by April 30. Results will be presented at the June annual meeting.

3 HB 585 'Dark Skies' policy for NH – Robert Gillette, Ossipee

R. Snelling introduced Robert Gillette from Ossipee, speaking for Rep. Robert Bridgham. R. Gillette said that HB 585 establishes a 'Dark Skies' policy for New Hampshire to encourage outdoor lighting efficiency at the municipal and state level. He added that the purpose of the bill is to require all new and replacement outdoor lighting fixtures that illuminate state highways, buildings, parking and other areas installed with state funds, to be properly sized and fully shielded. This design ensures maximum practicable energy efficiency and cost savings and preserves dark skies by preventing light pollution. It also requires utilities to provide fully-shielded, energy-efficient fixtures to municipalities as the default design for local street lighting. In addition, it would instruct the Public Utilities Commission to set an electric utility rate that would give NH municipalities and private customers the option of using inexpensive new technology to turn off selected street lights during part of the night to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. R. Gillette said this bill would also establish the preservation of dark skies wherever practicable as a feature of the scenic, historic, and traditional character of NH, and to minimize the impact of artificial lighting on wildlife habitat. A question and answer session followed.

4 SB 159 Establishing Broadband Technology – Senator Deb Reynolds

R. Snelling introduced Senator Deborah Reynolds. Sen. Reynolds said that SB 159 is the result of earlier efforts by the Department of Resources and Economic Development to develop a comprehensive broadband plan for the state. She added that New Hampshire demographics studies have identified youth migrating to other states offering superior broadband, as well as other factors. Consultants have produced a comprehensive broadband action plan with the major item to provide leadership and coordination of broadband initiatives in New Hampshire. This position would define critical terms, collection availability of broadband data from

broadband providers, and the creation and dissemination of available maps and databases throughout the state. The legislation would create a telecommunications office at the state level. This would include coordinating state and telecommunication policy planning, and facilitate collaboration with private and public development efforts relative to broadband technology. It would also act as an agent in recruiting and retaining high technology companies, promote broadband, and increase demand. A question and answer session followed her presentation.

5 SB 107 Establishing a process to lease state-owned land on public waters.

Senator Reynolds introduced Representative Alida Millham who had worked on state land leases in the past. Rep. Millham said that people are getting leases for railroad rights-of-way, and parlaying them into waterfront development. She commented that there are two issues: 1) residents who have waterfront access leases for property on the other side of railroad tracks, and 2) those who lease the property to sell memberships to a waterfront club. She noted the state of NH does not have adequate information on the number of waterfront properties it owns. She cited waterfront property that does not involve the DOT and land that is on the railroad right-of-way from Weirs Beach to Meredith, as an example.

Sen. Reynolds briefly referenced SB 39 pertaining to SB2 towns. This bill allows town treasurers to make certain deposits weekly and establishes special procedures to enable towns to respond appropriately to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The DES has a preliminary application online until February 27 for some of these funds. Following their presentations, Senator Reynolds fielded questions.

6 HB 156 authorizes applicants to select third party review consultants from a list of persons prequalified by a planning board.

R. Snelling introduced Rep. Patten, who said HB 156 would allow towns to provide a list of prequalified contractors to applicants. The bill would give the planning board approval, during the review process, to have a third party review the application, and require the applicant to pay for the expenses. The main purpose under Section 2, is that while the development is being built, the third party would review the plans to ensure that they are being developed in accordance with the requirement of the planning board. This bill would establish a process for the planning board to provide applicants a choice to choose from three licensed consultants. The process is to identify and resolve problems before they occur and becomes costly. Following Rep. Patten's presentation a question and answer session followed.

7 SB 139 Establishes a moratorium on the comprehensive shoreland protection Act (CSPA).

R. Snelling asked LRPC Director Kimon Koulet for comments in the absence of Rep. Mark McConkey. K. Koulet said the original CSPA was enacted in 1991 and fully funded in 1995. The legislature established a special study commission in 2005, which produced a report in 2006 that contained a number of recommendations. Most of these were enacted, as late as July 2008. It seems unreasonable to call for a moratorium after recent efforts and less than a year of full implementation. From the viewpoint of the bill's advocates, one of the underlying assumptions for this bill is that the committee did not include many shorefront

property owners, who are viewed as the most affected by the bill. He noted that towns received a large number of building permit requests in the shoreland area prior to the bill being enacted. He added that the New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions opposes the moratorium.

8 Other Discussion

The effective date of the workforce housing legislation was raised by Commissioner Cunningham. K. Koulet said the current status is to shorten the proposed effective date from July 1, 2010 to January 1, 2010. The one-year delay was offered to give communities more time to respond to the new law, which presently has an effective date of July 1, 2009.

9 Other Business

Chairman Snelling thanked the speakers for their presentation. There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.