

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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LRPC Commissioner Meeting

Location: Tilton Police Dept. | Community Room

Minutes of September 25, 2023

Approved October 23, 2023

Commissioners Present		Commissioners Absent	
Andover:	Harold Tuttle	Alexandria:	George Tuthill
Barnstead:	David Kerr	Ashland:	Mardean Badger
Belmont:	Rod Cameron	Bridgewater:	Ken Weidman
Bristol:	Bill Dowey	Center Harbor:	Mark Hildebrand
Freedom:	Mark McConkey	Danbury:	John Taylor
Gilford:	John Ayer		Mark Zaccaria
Gilmanton:	Stephanie Verdile	Hebron:	Ivan Quinchia
Moultonborough:	Cristina Ashjian	Laconia:	Dean Anson, II
New Hampton:	Andy Anderson		Stacy Soucy
Northfield:	Wayne Crowley		Wes Anderson
	Doug Read	Meredith:	Stephanie Maltais
Plymouth:	John Christ	Moultonborough:	Celeste Burns
Sanbornton:	Robert Lambert	New Hampton:	David Katz
Sandwich:	Bonnie Osler	Plymouth:	William Bolton
Tamworth:	Lianne Prentice		Zachary Tirrell
Tilton:	Jeanie Forrester	Tamworth:	Richard Doucette
Tuftonboro:	Tim Galvin		Wyatt Berrier
Wolfeboro:	Roger Murray, III	Tilton:	Jane Alden
		Wolfeboro:	Tavis Austin

LRPC Staff: Executive Director Jeff Hayes, Administrative Assistant Linda Waldron, Regional Planner David Jeffers, Land Use Planner Christine Marion.

Guest Speaker: Andrew Dorsett, Housing Finance Director | NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA).

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Ayer. Due to the presence of some newly appointed Commissioners, Chair Ayer invited everyone to introduce themselves and state what community they represented by way of welcome. A quorum was established.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chair Ayer directed the audience to the draft minutes of June 26, 2023 in the meeting packet and asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding their content. Absent any, he offered to take a motion that they be approved as presented. The motion was made by Secretary Prentice and seconded by Bonnie Osler. A voice vote was taken in which all members present were in favor. **Motion passed.**

3. Presentation

Executive Director Hayes introduced Andrew Dorsett who will be providing an update on InvestNH concerning the availability of some new funding. Mr. Dorsett spoke on the housing crisis and explained what the InvestNH program is about as well as the various sections of funding within it. The program was initially funded in the amount of \$100 million to address the workforce housing crisis in NH which has been allocated. A secondary influx of funding has been made available to InvestNH and The Housing Champion program in the total amount of \$15 million and, although much of it has been awarded, some is still available. Mr. Dorsett described the facets of each program and encouraged any municipality interested in applying for these funds to do so immediately before the rest is tapped out.

4. Old Business

- a. RNHA Adoption Discussion. Executive Director Hayes reminded Commissioners of the reason for and progress of the development of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment report now before the Commission. He identified the fair share table which allocates units by town, and which was part of the original model, stating that, in his opinion, it is not fair and not actionable. He went on to say that this was discussed at the Executive Board meeting earlier this month and it was decided that the fair share table is not something the Board feels comfortable including in the report. As such, the Board unanimously determined that the RHNA report should be presented to the full Commission for adoption with the recommendation that the fair share table be excluded. After a lengthy comment period, Chair Ayer directed the Commissioners to go back to their respective towns for additional review and guidance; ultimately deciding whether their town was willing to adopt the Lakes Region Housing Needs Assessment with or without the "fair share" table which allocates a specific number of "affordable housing" units to every community in the region. The RHNA discussion and potential adoption vote will be added to the November meeting agenda.
- b. Proposed By-Law Revisions. Executive Director Hayes made the Commission aware that the By-Laws have been revised in terms of reordering and clarifying several sections. The only substantive change relates to the appointment of alternates to the Executive Board (Section 8.3.3) in an effort to resolve quorum issues. These proposed changes have been reviewed by the Executive Board and it was their recommendation that they be presented to the full Commission for approval. There being no discussion, Executive Director Hayes announced that the 30-day consideration and comment period dictated by the By-Laws has now begun, encouraging Commissioners to review the document more thoroughly and to submit any comments to the Executive Board. The matter will be brought back before the Commission for a vote at the next meeting.

5. New Business

- a. FY24 Budget Proposal Approval. Executive Director Hayes stated that the By-Laws require the budget be brought forward to the full Commission at the first meeting of the new fiscal year for approval. Chair Ayer notes that the Executive Board has recommended approval. Roger Murray made a motion that the FY24 budget be approved as presented which was seconded by Andy Sanborn. A voice vote was taken in which all members present were in favor. **Motion passed.**
- b. FY25 Municipal Membership & HHW Appropriations. Executive Director Hayes reminded Commissioners that we need to provide these numbers to our municipalities by October for inclusion in their budgets. Municipal fiscal years differ from LRPC's fiscal year, therefore FY25 budgets are being procured now.

The proposed municipal membership dues include the standard inflation increase. A discussion period was offered of which there was none. Secretary Prentice put forth a motion to approve the FY25 municipal dues as presented to which Harold Tuttle seconded. A voice vote was taken in which all members present were in favor. **Motion passed.**

Concerning the HHW appropriations, Executive Director Hayes remarked that, as has been stated in the past, we will be entering into a new contract with our current vendor for future HHW collection events. Unfortunately, as anticipated, there has been a 40% increase from the last multi-year contract. After discussion, a motion was proffered by Cristina Ashjian to approve the HHW appropriations as presented. A second was provided by John Christ. A voice vote was taken in which all members present were in favor.

Motion passed.

- c. FY24 Proposed Meeting Calendar. Executive Director Hayes mentioned that the calendar has been approved by the Executive Board. Suggested Commissioners take note. Chair Ayer conducted a voice vote to accept the proposed meeting calendar. All members present indicated they were in favor. **Passed.**
- d. CEDS and EDA District Process. Executive Director Hayes talked about the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy advising that it is a plan which would allow the LRPC to become eligible for economic development administration funding, public works funding, sewer & water funding, etc. He is proposing that the Lakes Region have its own economic development strategy plan and become its own district as we are currently lumped in with the north country district. In order to be considered as an independent district, we will need letters of support from our membership communities. It was decided that Commissioners should take this idea to their towns for consideration given that a letter of support will be required. We will revisit this at our next meeting.

6. Roundtable

Skipped due to time constraints.

7. Adjournment

Chair Ayer thanked volunteers, old and new alike, for their service and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Waldron
Administrative Assistant