

There were 17 people in attendance at first Strategic Planning listening session. I thought that was a good number. What was nice to see was the support by many Commissioners. I think we received some good input; I don't have anything written up at this point, but in general there were a number of topics covered, interestingly energy planning was not one of them and the conversation was heavy on the housing issues that communities will be faced with over the next year due to the passage of

SB342 and the continued tension within the Upper Valley region over perceptions of impact of growth. Many of the ways that people felt the Commission could/should be assisting communities were pretty consistent with the survey that we received from the municipalities in that the most important role of the RPC seems to be general technical assistance, acting as a regional leader on issues especially those that cross municipal and regional boundaries. I think it will be important to educate communities on the consistent message that the very things that communities seem to value us doing the most is work that we do not have a direct contract to do, other than our \$23K from OEP. Although there is growing energy throughout the state to create some initiatives that may rectify this, there is no short-term solution other than to make sure that in these increasingly difficult financial times we articulate to communities how important membership to the commission is in order for us to continue to build the capacity necessary to address their needs.