



Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission

UVLSRPC Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
UVLSRPC Offices, Lebanon, NH

Committee Present:

Thain Allan, Grantham
Katherine Connolly, Hanover
Jeff Kessler, Newport
Larry LeClair, Lebanon

Others:

Christine Walker, staff, Chris Courtemanche, staff, Nate Miller, staff

- Chair Larry LeClair called meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- Regional Plan: Christine noted that work is continuing with the Regional Plan and that the next step will be forming focus groups to receive feedback on what the Commission has discovered to date.
- Authorization of funding/grant applications: Christine noted that the following grant applications should be added to the February full commission agenda.
 - Unified Planning Work Program (NHDOT) for FY 14/15 - \$450,000
 - Targeted Block Grant (NH Office of Energy and Planning) - \$10,000
 - Purchase of Service for Sullivan County (NHDOT 5310 Funding) - \$43,500

Motion was made by Kate and seconded by Jeff to add the above items to the commission agenda.
- Personnel Issues: Christine noted that Quinn Molloy was hired as temporary employee until June. Christine will be considering full time employment based on the FY 14 budget.
- New Business:
 - Christine researched the cost of leasing another RAV 4 with White River Toyota for the company vehicle. The current lease expires on April 22, 2013. According to the dealership, a 2012 RAV would cost \$347.00, and the 2013 would run \$367.00 per month. The other option is to purchase the current RAV4 that the Commission uses outright for \$14,000. Thain confirmed that the vehicle was used for conducting traffic counts for our Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) contract with NHDOT and has saved the Commission money on reimbursing staff for mileage when attending meetings. After much discussion, the committee agreed that the Commission should enter into another 3-year lease and specified bring to the Commission the cost of the 2013 RAV 4 with 20-thousand miles per year (60K over the three year lease) and encourage staff to use the Commission vehicle to further reduce personal mileage reimbursement. **Motion was made by Larry and seconded by Thain. Motion passed unanimously.**

- Christine informed the Committee that Executive Councilor Ray Burton had inquired about the Commission's position on HB617 pertaining to gas taxes and registration fees in NH in order to increase funding for NH roads and bridges. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) had previously had a lengthy discussion regarding this issue. The Executive Committee agreed that the Commission had never taken a position on legislative issues in the past and that it would be good to inform the Commission about the status of this issue so that communities were aware of the implications and opportunities that they may have to voice their opinion but that they were not comfortable beginning to take positions on legislation. Kate added that the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions fills that role by having three representatives (the Executive Director and two Commissioners) from each of the RPCs who watch legislation and on occasion participate in hearings on issues that are important to communities.
- Christine provided information to the Committee about some of the discussions that are taking place around the region regarding wind energy. The Commission will spend some time keeping up with the legal obligations and what municipalities can and cannot do regarding these issues in an attempt to be prepared for questions that municipalities may have. Christine also informed the Committee that there had been a number of meetings to keep the municipalities informed about the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing of the Wilder and Bellows Falls dams. FERC is currently seeking input in order to determine what issues should be addressed prior to receiving licenses for the dams. The licenses are anticipated to be 40 years, so decisions on water flows and their impacts of property along the river are important to understand and discuss with TransCanada (the dam owners). The role of the Commission will be to keep the municipalities as informed as possible so that they opportunities to participate are not lost.
- Commission Meeting Agenda:
 - Rav 4/Commission vehicle decision
 - Regional Coordinating Councils (the RCCs have been reporting to the Commission every two years to keep the Commission informed of their work and to keep the Commission apprised of their membership.
 - Approval to apply, accept contracts from NH Department of Transportation, Office Energy and Planning and others prior to Annual Meeting.
 - Presentation from Joanna Whitcomb re: Dartmouth College Master Plan
 - Create Nominating Committee for FY14
 - Reserves for Operational Contingencies
 - Report out on Legislative Priorities

Motion was made by Thain to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Chris Courtemanche