

BARRINGTON
BROOKFIELD
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FARMINGTON
LEE
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MIDDLETON
MILTON



NEW DURHAM
NEWMARKET
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

DRAFT

Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Commission Meeting
Thursday September 28th 2006
Rochester NH

Members Present: Vice Chairman-Ed Jansen, Jr. (Rollinsford); Interim Chair -Al Dixon (Newmarket); Larry Brown (Milton); Kenn Ortmann (Rochester); Tom Crosby (Madbury); Peter Stanhope (Durham); Sandra Keans (Rochester); Frank Torr (Dover); Melvin Jenkins (Lee); and Nancy Spencer-Smith (Wakefield).

Members Absent: Bruce Woodruff (Milton-Proxy vote); Roger Berube (Somersworth-Proxy vote); Ted Huckins (Strafford-Proxy vote); Janet Wall (Madbury); Clay Mitchell (Newmarket); Gail Mills (Nottingham); Tom Willis (Rochester); John Hinsman (Rollinsford); Francis Vincent (Somersworth), Rodney Cools (Wakefield) and MaryLou Beaver (Rochester).

SRPC Staff Present: Cynthia Copeland (Executive Director); Julie LaBranche (Senior Land Use Planner); Joyce El Kouarti (Communications Coordinator) and Michelle Beauchamp (Planning Administrator).

Others Present: Mayor John Larochele, Jack Pare, David Smith, Lou Vita and Carol Vita.

Interim Chair-Al Dixon called the meeting to order at 7PM and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. Consideration and Approval of the FY 2008 Dues.

Executive Director-Cynthia Copeland noted that the Executive Committee met in August to review the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 dues. The rate per capita used was calculated with a 4.3% CIP (June 2005 to June 2006 US, City average for all items) with a 1% value added increase for a total of 5.3%. She added that the estimated population projection came from the Office of Energy and Planning, which runs one-year behind. The 2005 estimated population for the region is 144,105 total. The change in population from 2004 to 2005 was 1,833 people. The per capita rate for up to 5,000 in population is 1.09450 and the per capital rate above 5,000 in population is .5165. The total dues increase from Fiscal Year 2007 to Fiscal Year 2008 is \$7,049.

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Al Dixon noted that he felt the dues were very conservative over the last few years, maybe too conservative. He noted that the dues should be sufficient money to fund the key administrative staff and they have not been able to do that. The 5.3% increase will afford us to retain a stable qualified staff.

Ken Ortmann made the motion to approve the FY 2008 Dues as presented. Sandra Keans seconded. Ken Ortmann noted that Commission needs to provide value to the communities and this will be a big focus this year. In order to provide the services, we need to have funding for qualified staff, and this justifies the dues rate. All in favor [*Bruce Woodruff (Milton), Roger Berube (Somersworth) and Ted Huckins (Strafford) provided proxy votes*], motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the May 31st 2006 Minutes.

Ken Ortmann made the motion to approve the May 31st 2006 minutes. Ed Jansen seconded. All in favor [*Bruce Woodruff (Milton), Roger Berube (Somersworth) and Ted Huckins (Strafford) provided proxy votes*], motion passed unanimously.

3. FY 2007 Executive Committee Appointment.

Al Dixon noted that there was a vacancy on the Executive Committee since Tom Fargo has resigned. He noted that Dover is no longer represented on the Committee and asked for a volunteer from one of the larger Towns. Cynthia Copeland noted that current Executive Committee representatives were from Madbury, Milton, Newmarket, Rochester, Rollinsford and Wakefield.

4. Introduction of new Strafford Regional Planning Commission staff.

Cynthia Copeland introduced Joyce El Kouarti as the Communications Coordinator. Joyce will be working on a part-time basis in the area of media relations, desktop publishing and community relations. Cynthia Copeland noted that Joyce currently works with Moose Mountain Regional Greenway as the Executive Director, the Dover Open Lands Committee, Dover Downtown Riverfront Committee, and had been a staff member of the Dover Chamber of Commerce.

5. Other Business.

Cynthia Copeland noted that the Seacoast Metropolitan Planning Organization: Fiscal Year 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program and Long Range Transportation Plan has a 30-

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day comment period, which is a federally mandated process. Information is available at various municipal locations in Dover and Rochester.

Cynthia Copeland noted that the two Regional Planning Commissions (Rockingham & Strafford) are looking at splitting the Seacoast MPO into two components now that the census population is over 50,000 people for Dover, Rochester and Somersworth. This was approved at the annual SRPC meeting in May of 2006. Just last month, Rockingham Planning Commission approved looking at the process. The Executive Directors for the Regional Planning Commission will make an appointment with the Department of Transportation Commissioners to discuss the process. The MPO needs approval from 75% of the communities and the Governor.

Cynthia Copeland noted that Monday, October 26th is the last day for comments on the Spaulding Turnpike improvement for Newington/Dover project.

Cynthia Copeland noted that the Economic Development Summit between Southern Maine and Seacoast Region of New Hampshire was held a few weeks ago. The University of New Hampshire and the University of Southern Maine put together data regarding the impact of tourism, retirement and technology for the combined bi-state area. This presentation is on the website.

Cynthia Copeland noted that SRPC had just finished The Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds, which is funded by the New Hampshire Coastal Program, New Hampshire Estuaries Project and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Piscataqua Region. We are currently in the implementation phase where we will work with a minimum of two communities. New Durham has expressed interest and it has been proposed to Dover for consideration. The plan focuses on ecology and water quality. The Coastal Watershed weekend is on October 14th and 15th in which there will be a 7 field trips to look at the properties in these core areas. The Wakefield Conservation Commission, Moose Mountain Regional Greenway, Strafford Rivers Conservancy are sponsoring some of the tours. The field trips include The Mulligan Forest in Nottingham, The Barbour Easement at Union Meadows, The Lamprey River Headlands, The Hampton Salt Marsh, The Piscassic Greenway in Newfield and Newmarket, the Lumberland Creek Preserve on Great Bay and Teneriffe Mountain in Milton.

Cynthia Copeland noted that Senator Greg initiated the Coastal Estuary Land Conservation Program as a funding source for conservation lands within coastal watersheds, similar to the process for a Forest Legacy. The NH Coastal Program has a draft New Hampshire CELP Plan to prioritize funding and select projects for 2008 funding.

Cynthia Copeland noted the New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions has asked that RSA 36:55 and RSA 36:57 concerning review of developments of regional impact be amended to require that each of the nine Regional Planning Commissions to develop guidelines

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that would be used to identify when land use projects ought to be considered Developments of Regional Impact. This would allow the communities in each planning region to develop a common understanding of when development projects should be deemed to have a regional impact, and require the crafting of guidelines that are responsive to the unique municipal concerns of each planning region. The proposed amendment would allow the regional planning commissions to recoup their reasonable costs incurred for preparing review reports on Developments of Regional Impacts. Representative Tom Gillick is the primary sponsor.

Cynthia Copeland introduced Julie LaBranche as the new Senior Land Use Planner. Cynthia noted that Julie was the City Planner for Newburyport, MA and prior to that she worked for the Department of Natural Resources in Maryland.

- 6. Julie LaBranche, Senior Land Use Planner presented Maryland's Critical Area Law – Land Use/Conservation Zoning.**
- 7. Jack Pare, Guest Speaker presented the proposed Development of Tidal Energy in the Piscataqua River.**

8. Adjournment.

Larry Brown made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Tom Crosby. All in favor motion passed unanimously.

Cynthia Copeland
Executive Director
Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Beauchamp
Planning Administrator
Strafford Regional Planning Commission