

**Southern Windsor County
Regional Planning Commission**

Minutes of Monday, February 24, 2020
Martin Memorial Hall, Ascutney, VT

Commissioners Present: Joe Wilson, Springfield; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Tom Kenyon, West Windsor; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Terri Carter, Ludlow; Walter Martone, Springfield Alt.; Tom Marsh, Windsor; Kathy Callan Rondeau, Reading, Peter Daniels, Weathersfield.

Joe Wilson opened the regular meeting of the SWCRPC at 12:25 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda

Joe Fromberger made a motion to approve the agenda as printed; seconded by Tom Kenyon. Motion carried.

2. Secretary's Report

- a. Terry Carter made a motion to approve the minutes of January 27, 2020; the motion was seconded by Tom Kenyon. Kathy Callan Rondeau suggested a correction to the minutes on page 3, line 4, change up to of. The motion passed with the correction.

3. Treasurer's Report

- a. Peter Daniels made a motion to accept the January 2020 Treasurer's Report. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed.

4. Draft Bylaws

- a. Tom Kennedy went through the bylaws with the Commissioners. The Chair asked the Commissioners if they were agreeable to changing the name of the Commission to MT. Ascutney Regional Commission, the Commissioners are agreeable to making the change. There were minor edits made in the document which will be highlighted for discussion at the next Board meeting. The remaining area for discussion at the next Board meeting is the new section on the responsibilities of the Executive Committee. Tom Kennedy also went over the section on Intermunicipal Agreements and provided the enabling statute. Tom Kennedy asked the Board to vote on final approval at the June Board meeting. Tom K. said that before final approval, the RPC needs to provide 30 days advance written notification of the proposed bylaw amendments to members of the Commission. Tom Kennedy also suggested that the name change not go into effect until January 1, 2021, this will give the RPC plenty of time to determine all the legal and tax issues associated with changing the name of the Commission.

5. Legislative Issues

- a. Tom Kennedy discussed some of the legislative issues that may impact both the RPC and municipalities.
- b. Act 250: The bill passed the House but it did not contain the changes to the District Commission structure that the Governor desired so it is unclear if the

Administration will agree to changes made in the House draft. The major changes are language dealing with Climate change, forest fragmentation and forest blocks, Act 250 exemption in designated areas and increased protection around rural interchanges.

- c. Housing: Several bills are trying to address housing and housing affordability. An area of keen interest is to introduce new statutory language to require municipalities to provide more flexibility around housing, allow for up to four housing as a permitted use.
 - d. Transportation Climate Initiative: Tom Kennedy said there was a meeting in Springfield in February to discuss the initiative. The presenters at the meeting said that the initiative is trying to include all states from Maine to Virginia to develop initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles. Regionally, transportation emissions continue to increase and there appears to be a consensus amongst the states that a new model needs to be developed to address the issue. The lack of consensus is whether a carbon tax would be the most efficient way of addressing the issue.
6. Old Business
- a. Clean Water Service Provider: The Department of Environmental Conservation has decided that initially the program will be targeted to the Lake Champlain and Lake Memphremagog basins
 - b. Ascutney Professional Building: Staff has been advertising the rental space over many media platforms.

7. Adjourn

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn at 1:25 p.m. Second by Tom Kenyon.
Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Kennedy