

**Mount Ascutney
Regional Commission**

Minutes of Monday, January 24, 2022
MARC Offices, Ascutney, VT
and via Zoom

Commissioners Present: Tom Bock, Chester; Tom Marsh, Windsor; Kathy Rondeau, Reading; Wayne Wheelock, Baltimore; Walter Martone, Springfield; Terry Carter, Ludlow; Joe Fromberger, Andover; Etienne Ting, Cavendish; Peter Daniels, Weathersfield.

Staff Present: Tom Kennedy, Jason Rasmussen, Cynthia Porter.

Tom Bock opened the meeting at 12:01 PM.

1. Changes to the Agenda
 - a. None.
2. Secretary's Report
 - a. *Joe Fromberger made a motion to approve the December 6, 2021 meeting minutes with one minor correction under Section 7a. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed unanimously.*
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. *Peter Daniels made a motion to receive the December 2022 financial report. Second by Joe Fromberger. Motion passed unanimously.*
 - b. Jason Rasmussen reported that we received two proposals for financial audit services: RHR Smith (\$8,500) and Sullivan and Powers (\$21,000). RHR Smith works with a few other RPCs in the area.
 - c. *Tom Marsh made a motion to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with RHR Smith per their proposal. Second by Walter Martone. Motion passed unanimously.*
4. Staffing Updates
 - a. Jason Rasmussen reported that he and Tom have assumed their new roles at the beginning of January. Tom is now focused on solid waste, brownfields, ARPA and Northern Borders projects. Jason thanked Tom and Cynthia for their help with the transition.
 - b. Joanne, who had been working a day a week in the administrative office, is no longer working here. Cynthia and Mandy are handling those duties themselves.
5. Motion to Support Increased RPC funding through Property Transfer Tax
 - a. *Terry Carter made a motion to support increased funding through the Property Transfer Tax for RPCs and Municipal Planning Grants. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed unanimously.*
 - b. Tom Kennedy indicated that VAPDA is preparing a one-page summary regarding this request. That summary will be made available for the next meeting.

6. Update on Housing Efforts

- a. Jason Rasmussen reported on efforts to implement the Keys to the Valley initiative and help with the housing crisis. MARC is receiving about \$50,000 to help towns modernize their zoning for housing. This is being funded through the Bylaw Modernization Grant program.

7. Brownfields

- a. Tom Kennedy and Peter Daniels reviewed the projects reviewed by the Brownfields Steering Committee.
- b. *Peter Daniels made a motion to approve an RLF subgrant of up to \$50,000 to SRDC, requiring a 20% match, which will come from the DEC share in the cost, to perform aquifer performance testing at the J&L #1 site in Springfield for fuel oil nonaqueous phase liquid (NAPL). Second by Walter Martone. Motion passed unanimously.*
- c. *Peter Daniels made a motion to approve supplemental assessment funds not to exceed \$34,000 to SRDC for PCB testing and a TSCA risk-based cleanup plan for the middle portions of the Bryant Grinder building in Springfield. Second by Walter Martone. Motion passed unanimously.*
- d. *Peter Daniels made a motion to approve supplemental Phase II funding up to \$38,000 to River Valley Property Management for an evaluation of PCB impacts at and near the Windsor Gas Light Co./Levesque property in Windsor. Second by Kathy Rondeau. Motion passed unanimously.*
- e. *Terry Carter made a motion to approve \$14,722 in funding, from either program income or assessment funding, for indoor air assessment for PCBs at the Park Street School in Springfield. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed unanimously.*
- f. *Peter Daniels made a motion to approve a request from the Town of Chester for \$2,500 each site for Phase I assessments at 138 Cummings Road and 118 Amsden Hill Road, which the Town may acquire under tax sale. These funds are to come from program income. Second by Terry Carter. Motion passed unanimously.*

8. Old Business

- a. Jason Rasmussen reported that draft updates to the Regional Plan utilities and facilities and cultural resources chapters are under review by the Regional Plan Committee. A few more drafts are anticipated to be ready for review within a month or two, including housing, health, economic development and emergency management.

9. Adjourn

Wayne Wheelock made a motion to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. Second by Peter Daniels. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Rasmussen