

**RPC Commission Meeting
August 8, 2018**

**Salem Public Library
Salem, NH**

Commissioners Present: B. Kravitz, Chairman (Hampton); R. McDermott, A. Brubaker (Hampton Falls); B. Donahue (Salem); T. Moore (Plaistow); M. Allen, J. Doggett (Newton); L. Cushman, D. Swett (Stratham); R. Clark (Atkinson); R. Becksted (Portsmouth); G. Coppelman, P. Coffin (Kingston); S. Gerrato (Greenland); P. Wilson (North Hampton); C. Cross, D. Hebert (Newington); G. Gott (Raymond); R. Babcock (Fremont); J. Kiszka (Plaistow)

Staff Present: T. Roache (Executive Director); D. Walker (Transportation Program Manager);

Guests: P. Pelletier (Salem Planning Board); S. Kravitz (Hampton); L. Wilson (North Hampton)

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Kravitz called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and she thanked Salem for hosting. Introductions were made around the room.

2. Minutes of May 9, 2018

*Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of May 9, 2018; McDermott seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Minutes of June 13, 2018

*Coppelman moved to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2018; McDermott seconded. **SO VOTED.***

3. UPWP Amendment, D. Walker

Walker noted that the courts have decided to vacate certain aspects of the EPA's Air Quality Standards from 1997. So now as an MPO it's necessary to go back to doing air quality conformity. The RPC model has to be retrofitted in order to accomplish this and DOT is supplying us with additional funding to allow us to do that. We need to amend the budget of the UPWP by \$26,465. We will be spending those additional funds to retrofit and train over the next

three months. *McDermott moved to approve the proposed amendment to the UPWP; Moore seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Walker also noted there may be another revision to the UPWP because we also have to do a formal G&C contract adjustment later.

4. Presentation: Tuscan Village - Ross Moldoff, Salem Town Planner

Roache thanked the town of Salem for coming back as an RPC dues paying member and looks forward to Salem becoming an active member of the RPC again.

Moldoff noted he worked as a Transportation Planner with the RPC many years ago. He reviewed the location of the Tuscan Village proposal which is on 170 acres that was previously the location of Rockingham Park horse racing track for over 100 years. He went over all the entities that are proposed as part of the project, including a car dealership, condominiums, market basket grocery store, bank, coffee shop and several other stores. Discussion followed regarding the dealership and how that type of use complicates the development being a walkable, village type property. He reviewed some wetlands impacts. He also reviewed the remaining proposed developments on the site which include movie theatre, duplexes, elderly housing, business & retail space and gas stations and restaurants. He noted that the developer has a sign consultant who has put together sign standards for the whole development. Sidewalks are a big feature of the proposal, as well as rotaries and bike paths. They are also going to complete the rail trail and other paths with a park feature. He noted there will also be a dedicated area commemorating the Rockingham Park racetrack. Moldoff asked for thoughts and discussion from the commissioners. Questions were fielded about the large amounts of asphalt parking lots, the number of residential units in the development, demographics of residents and school population impacts. Current estimates are that professional young adults and retired people will reside in the residential units, which will result in approximately 70 school age children. Questions were fielded about sewage treatment, stormwater, impervious pavement, and traffic in and around the development and how that affects travel in and around Salem. Questions were raised about how the town of Salem is protecting itself in case the project doesn't come to full fruition. Discussion continued on one-time impact fees that will be assessed and how this has stimulated developments around the area. Moldoff noted that you can see information about the plan on Salem's website.

5. Publicinput.com – D. Walker

Roache started by stating that just like Salem wants good public involvement in the Tuscan Village development proposal, many towns want public input for master plans or parking studies, etc. Walker gave a presentation about the way the staff used a new software service based around community

engagement. It's design could greatly help in the effort to gain input for MPO services and community projects that require public input. The software also gives us the opportunity to survey varied groups and get conversation back and forth via social media. It also allows geolocating where the respondents are. The social media aspect would allow targeting of specific groups, like people over 55, or people within a certain area, or demographic. It helps get input from groups that are often under-represented. You can also set up a live meeting via people's cell phones. He reviewed the Exeter Parking study results specifically, which was done as a test project. He noted that usually public response is low, however, using this service the response was very high and it received additional comments from about 340 people, so that's a lot more engagement than usually received via a standard survey. This service allows response to the comments as well, which is helpful in providing correct information back to the respondents. Another benefit is that people can prescribe to get updates on the project moving forward. Walker showed what the survey looks like online and how the views and responses are tracked, the study area map and how the questions appear in the survey. He reviewed many more aspects of the software capabilities. Roache noted it would be a great opportunity for the RPC to purchase the software and then run give member communities options for using it. It's capable of running 25 simultaneous surveys. Discussion followed on "public meeting" ramifications. Roache asked people to reach out to him with their thoughts.

6. **Public Comment** – Kravitz presented Phil Wilson with a plaque for his 3 year tenure as Chairman of the RPC in recognition of his excellence in leadership, strategic foresight, and commitment to the benefit of the Commission and its member municipalities. She noted those that have served with him, especially on the Executive Committee, have been gifted with his tenacity, his expressive language lessons, and his human resource expertise. Phil thanked the Commission.

Donahue introduced himself as the newest Salem Commissioner, resident of Salem for almost 50 years. He reviewed his extensive community participation on many boards and committees throughout the years and stated that he is happy and proud to be a Salem Commissioner. Kravitz thanked him for participating and stated the Commission is happy to have him. She also thanked Ross Moldoff for hosting the Commission meeting and noted the project and his presentation was impressive.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Roache, Executive Director