

**Rockingham Planning Commission
Minutes**

**September 13, 2017
Plaistow Public Library, Plaistow NH**

Members Present: P. Wilson, Chairman, (North Hampton); M. Turell, R. Clark (Atkinson); A. Davis, S. Hastings (Hampstead); A. Carnaby, M. Edgar, B. Kravitz (Hampton); P. Britz (Portsmouth); J. Foley (Epping); M. Rabideau, D. Hawkins (Seabrook); K. Woolhouse (Exeter); A. Welch, C. McCarthy (Raymond); G. English (Exeter); R. McDermott (Hampton Falls); S. Gerrato (Greenland); C. Cross (Newington); R. Barham (Fremont); L. Cushman (Stratham); J. Kiszka, T. Moore (Plaistow); G. Coppelman (Kingston)

Guests: S. Kravitz (Hampton); E. Strachan (NH Dept Env. Svcs); L. Wilson (No. Hampton Cons. Comm)

Staff: T. Roache (Executive Director); D. Walker (Transp. Program Mgr); S. Bogle (Sr. Transp. Planner); A. Pettengill (Business Manager); G. Greenwood (Assistant Director); J. LaBranche (Sr. Planner)

- 1. Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order immediately following the MPO Meeting at 7:20 p.m.**
- 2. Minutes of July 12, 2017:** *Coppelman moved to approve the Minutes of July 12, 2017 as presented; Kravitz seconded. **SO VOTED.** Turell, English, McDermott, Gerrato, Hawkins, Wilson abstained.*
- 3. Minutes of June 14, 2017:** *McDermott moved to approve the Minutes of June 14, 2017 as presented; Kiszka seconded. **SO VOTED.** Woolhouse and Wilson abstained. Corrections noted later: move M. Rabideau (Seabrook) from Guest list to Commissioner list; and correct town name for S. Ayer to read Hampton Falls.*

4. FY 18 RPC Annual Work Program

Roache referred to Attachment 4 and noted that the Executive Committee has already reviewed the Work Program. He highlighted the Targeted Block Grant funds which support GIS and training/education efforts, and the Coastal Zone Program funds that are being leveraged with local matching funds from towns to provide some MS4 assistance. LaBranche noted the 604b Powwow River Watershed project will look at the Powwow watershed, which is rated 3rd in importance in the Upper Merrimack River watershed. It will allow for creation of a water quality profile to identify sources of impairments and provide management guidelines for the 10 towns in the watershed and to assist with the creation of a watershed management plan. Coppelman noted that he took part in a webinar put on by NHMA that LaBranche was part of, regarding MS4, and he commended her work on that.

LaBranche stated she is also working on the High Water Mark Initiative funded by the Coastal Program which will allow high water markers to be installed in several coastal communities showing the elevation and flooding from past and/or future events and give case studies about ways in which communities are responding to flood risks. Discussion followed on how local wetlands impact water quality and how private wells have an impact on groundwater.

Roache noted that the 10 Year Plan Update for the Long Range Transportation Plan is still open for public comment until October 10th. Other transportation work includes the traffic counting program which is ongoing, and staff is still providing technical assistance to CART and also working on a regional bicycle and pedestrian plan. He explained staff will continue to assist REDC to prepare a Comprehensive Economic Development Plan and will continue to assist towns with their hazard mitigation plan updates for FEMA/NHHSEM.

*Turell moved to adopt the FY 18 RPC Annual Work Program as presented; McDermott seconded. **SO VOTED.***

5. Water Resources Presentation

Roache explained that tonight's presentation on water resources and recent legislation is part of an effort to help set the stage for the November Legislative Forum. This year's Forum will be a concerted effort to convey information to legislators about certain water issues, and ideas on how they can address those issues.

LaBranche distributed the NH Dept of Environmental Services Drinking Water Program Analytical Requirements and gave a presentation on protecting water resources, including a recent case study of Groundwater Reclassification for the Town of Seabrook. She discussed monitoring and outreach as well.

Greenwood reviewed HB 431 -Seacoast Commission Clean Drinking Water, and each function of the Bill. It will utilize and expand upon existing studies to plan for seasonal or drought supply issues; prepare mutual aid between seacoast towns for firefighting and replacement of drinking water supply where contaminated; create a centralized planning group to encourage coordination and support between towns; and to evaluate threats to groundwater quality due to environmental issues and monitor emerging contaminants.

He also reviewed HB 517 relative to state fees, funds, revenue and expenditures. He explained this is a large bill with nearly 100 sections applying to many different state laws. One piece of the Bill revises RSA 485 F3-4 which was originally established by SB 380. (SB 380 established both a drinking water and groundwater trust fund and a Commission called DWGAC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission to administer the funds resulting from the MBTE settlement with Exxon). DWGAC is charged with administering settlement funds, awarding grants and loan funds to protect drinking water resources and periodic reporting to the general court regarding the state of the Trust Fund and the projects being undertaken. He stated that the RPC will keep towns informed on any outreach from NHDES regarding the opportunity for towns to apply for grants or loans for any of the opportunities that exist. Examples of the use of these types of funds include Fremont's expansion of their water infrastructure, and the Coakly landfill's existing contaminates. Greenwood encouraged everyone to go to NH Dept of Environmental Services website and look up drinking water source protection program for one stop information on many water issues. Discussion followed regarding areas of need and questions about the trust fund uses.

6. Legislative Forum Update

Kravitz thanked LaBranche and Greenwood for their informative presentation about water issues. She reiterated that tonight's presentation was the precursor for the November 8th Legislative Forum at Unitil Headquarters in Hampton. She stated that Commissioners and Legislators will hear Brandon Kernan Supervisor, Hydrology and Conservation, NHDES and possibly John Beauvais, Pennichuck Waterworks, also. Wilson suggested commissioners encourage their planning boards, conservation commissions, boards of selectmen, and other leaders in their community to attend and be informed. Kravitz thanked all the members of the Legislative Policy Committee for their hard work.

7. Other Business

A. Communications: Roache announced the upcoming Household Hazardous Waste collection in Exeter on October 21st for the towns of Exeter, Stratham, Newfields, East Kingston, Epping, Seabrook, and South Hampton. Sinnott will be organizing volunteers again this year so contact staff if you'd like to volunteer to help. Roache also noted he has a meeting scheduled with Salem regarding membership dues on Sept. 18th. Roache stated that there will be an article in Town and City magazine co-authored by Greenwood and the Strafford Regional Planning Commission regarding Developments of Regional Impact. Roache reminded everyone that the public comment period is being held for the Ten Year Transportation Plan between Sept 18th and Oct 16th and it's imperative that Commissioners attend. The Long Range Plan public comment period is open now also, until Oct 10th.

B. Project Updates: None

C. Other: McDermott noted there will be a Salt Marsh Walk in Hampton on Saturday, September 16th

8. Public Comment: None

9. Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary