

MONADNOCK REGION FUTURE

LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

MINUTES

May 20, 2014

Present: Eileen Fernandes, Vice-Chair, *Cheshire Medical Center*; Dick Berry, Ben Daviss, Leandra MacDonald, Ed Merrell, *SWRPC Board of Directors*; Susan Ashworth, *Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services (HCS)*; Jen Risley, *Monadnock Food Co-op*; and Tom Moses, *NH Homebuilders Association*.

SWRPC staff members present were Tim Murphy, Executive Director; Rebecca Baldwin, Office Manager; Tara Germond, Senior Planner, Samantha Gaudette, Intern.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Vice-Chairman Fernandes called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., welcomed those in attendance, and introductions were made. It was noted that Samantha Gaudette is a student intern recently brought on board for the summer months to assist Commission staff with various projects including the Monadnock Region Future initiative. Members welcomed Samantha.

II. Minutes of March 18, 2014

The minutes of March 18, 2014 were approved by unanimous vote.

III. Regional Plan Development – Staff Update

Tara Germond reported that staff continues to work on the development of the Regional Plan. She briefly reviewed the plan structure including the vision, telling the story, implementation and appendix sections. She explained that Samantha Gaudette will be assisting with the development of the case studies and narratives to include throughout the body of the Plan. Tara Germond added that both herself and staff member Rebeckah Bullock are scheduled to meet with the NH Department of Environmental Services on May 21, 2014 to discuss their comments on the draft water infrastructure portion of the Plan.

IV. Implementation Strategies Brainstorm/Discussion

Tara Germond explained that the purpose of today's brainstorming session is to start developing ideas for implementation strategies. She noted that there is a broad array of draft goals and objectives that have been developed for the Regional Plan. Strategies should be specific action items that address either one or more of the Plan objectives, are achievable/feasible, integrate numerous issues/topics, involve multiple partners, target multiple stakeholders and strengthen or expand existing projects.

Using the document, 'Draft Regional Plan Goals and Objectives,' that was included in the agenda packet for the meeting, Tara Germond provided several examples of strategies for the group to consider. She then opened the discussion for members to offer additional suggestions and

thoughts. Tim Murphy noted that all ideas are welcome and that this process will assist staff in compiling a narrower list of strategies.

Following is a listing of different suggestions and thoughts on strategies shared by Leadership Team members by topic:

Support for Local Businesses:

- Develop tool kits and sample policies to help businesses jointly procure local goods and share services.
- Expand service exchange programs (i.e. time banks) where you barter for time rather than money.

Education & Community Services:

- Expand the offering of senior programs available in the Region.
- Offer adult education (night school) courses and programs.
- Refurbish schools to support multiple uses including senior programs, community performances, exercise programs, and job training.
- Establish public Wi-Fi networks in community buildings such as schools.
- Develop bus routes for seniors and students to share when going to the same facility for school and other programs.

Development Barriers:

- Restrictive codes and regulations make it hard for developers to build new residential construction that is affordable.
- Federal and state requirements can conflict with each other depending on funding sources being used.
- The lack of small lot sizes in zoning regulations make it hard to build small affordable homes.
- Need for more flexible zoning requirements.

Housing:

- Explore the development of co-housing opportunities that are affordable.
- Continue support for Keene Housing Authority's "Moving to Work" program.
- Develop more senior and family housing partnerships similar to projects done by Keene Housing and Southwest Community Services in Marlborough and Keene.
- Utilize older homes for workforce housing rather than student housing.
- Involve the banking industry to help educate the public on steps they need to take to become homeowners, including both the options available and obstacles present.
- Find a solution to the challenge that incomes are not keeping pace with housing costs.
- Equip housing complexes with Wi-Fi to meet telecommunication needs.
- Strive for energy efficient dwellings.
- Improve transportation connections between home, work and recreation.
- Develop community incentives to protect environmental resources.
- Create affordable housing that is representative of smaller New England towns.

Town Collaboration:

- Explore grant application opportunities for shared equipment such as fire apparatus, similar to Mutual Aid programs.
- Work on changing behavioral habits to encourage shared transportation options.
- Develop a "smart phone" application that will assist with meeting transportation needs.

Vulnerability resulting from loss of services we rely on like food, fuel and electricity:

- Rely on knowledge gathered on this subject by groups such as Keene Cities for Climate Protection and Transition Keene.
- Explore bringing gas lines into this Region.
- Provide education on emergency operation plans and public health plans.
- Maintain working landscapes and protect agricultural lands in the Region from the threat of development.
- Create a local brand for the Region and find ways to market and distribute it.

Vice-Chairman Fernandes asked that members contact Tara Germond with any addition comments or suggestions.

V. Next Meeting

It was discussed and agreed that the group should meet more frequently and those in attendance suggested holding the next meeting in June. Staff will send around a poll to determine the best date, possibly during the week of June 9th.

VI. Public Comments/Questions

No public comments were made at this time.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca I. Baldwin
Office Manager