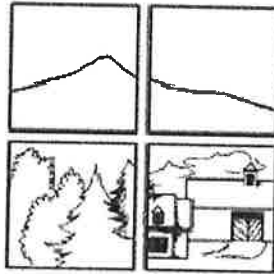


SOUTHWEST REGION

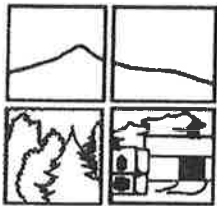
PLANNING COMMISSION



Annual Meeting

June 14, 2022

**Keene Housing
Stone Arch Senior Facility
835 Court Street
Keene, New Hampshire**



Southwest Region Planning Commission
37 Ashuelot Street, Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 Voice 603-357-7440 Fax

SOUTHWEST REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

ANNUAL MEETING

Keene Housing
Stone Arch Senior Facility
835 Court Street
Keene, NH

AGENDA

June 14, 2022

5:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Minutes of February 8, 2022 Meeting
- III. Annual Meeting Business Items
 - a) FY 2022/23 Work Program Budget
 - b) 2022 Nominating Committee Report
- IV. Executive Director Report
- V. Featured Presentation - Addressing the Housing Challenge
 - a) Regional Housing Needs Assessment
 - b) Guest Presenter: Rob Dapice, Executive Director/CEO New Hampshire Housing
- VI. Adjourn

**SOUTHWEST REGION PLANNING COMMISSION
WINTER COMMISSION MEETING**

MINUTES

February 8, 2022

I. Call to Order

Chairman Mullins called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. and acknowledged that an in-person quorum of the Commission is present. He added that since several Commissioners are attending remotely, all votes would be conducted by roll call (see attached attendance sheet). Chairman Mullins acknowledged Pam Slack and Michele Cota who are attending on behalf of Senator Shaheen's office, Bobby Graham from Senator Hassan's office and Jay Kahn, NH State Senator from District 10. He expressed appreciation to Cheshire County for allowing us to use of their facility for today's meeting.

II. Minutes of October 19, 2021 Meeting

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 meeting as presented.

Motion by Director Carbonneau seconded by Commissioner Mayberry. Approved by unanimous roll call vote with Director MacDonald abstaining.

III. Advisory Committee Reports

Mr. Murphy welcomed those in attendance and noted that 47 people were attending today's meeting (20 in-person and 27 remotely). He explained that updates on recent activities of the Commission's Transportation, Energy and Natural Resources and Economic Development Advisory Committees are provided in the agenda packet. He encouraged attendees to contact staff with any questions.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. Murphy announced that with the start of 2022 the Planning Commission has reached a milestone in providing over 50 years of service to the communities of southwest NH. He thanked the many volunteers that serve on our Board, Advisory Committees and Work Groups noting that their work is very much appreciated. He encouraged those who have not already done so to look at the new SWRPC website at www.swrpc.org. Mr. Murphy mentioned HB 1275 which is a proposed bill that would change the formula for how municipal representation on regional planning commissions is determined. Currently state law provides for every community to have two representatives on their regional planning commission and once population exceeds 10,000, a third representative is allowed and a fourth representative is allowed when population exceeds 25,000. HB 1275 proposes one representative for each community then an additional representative for each additional 10,000 in population per community. The NH Association of Regional

Planning Commissions (NHARPC) met with the bill's prime sponsor, Representative Wilhelm from Manchester, and shared thoughts and concerns regarding representation based on population which would result in cities such as Manchester and Nashua having a much larger voice with regard to what happens at regional planning commissions than smaller communities. The House Municipal and County Government Committee recently held a public hearing on the bill and found it inexpedient to legislate. The NHARPC will continue to monitor the bill as it proceeds through the legislative process. Mr. Murphy noted that for a regional planning commission to be most effective, all the communities need to have a meaningful voice at the table regardless of their size.

J. B. Mack explained that he is currently overseeing a project that will update the *Regional Housing Needs Assessment* which is to be updated every five years. Funding for the project is provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act in support of this effort among NH's nine regional planning commissions. The process which began in September is scheduled to extend through December of 2022 and is comprised of two phases. Phase I consists of statewide coordination among partners to develop a consistent approach and methodology regarding housing need and the development of a toolkit for our communities. Phase II involves the completion of an assessment of regional need for housing for individuals and families at all levels of income and will include a Fair Housing Equity Assessment. SWRPC is currently in the process of collecting data that will assist with the overall project. J. B. Mack referred to a page on the SWRPC website www.swrpc.org/rhna that will provide ongoing information on the project including ways that people can participate through public outreach.

Todd Horner provided an overview of the *Our Economy: A Strategy for Southwest NH* which is the new brand identity for the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Southwest NH* (CEDS). Funding for the project is provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. *Our Economy* is a three phase project designed to build knowledge, set goals and take action to prioritize a list of economic development projects that will help to improve our regional economy. This will be a living document and ongoing initiative that will continue to help make projects become a reality. It is an opportunity to educate ourselves about the state of our regional economy and identify key issues that effect the economy such as workforce, housing and infrastructure. Unlike the existing CEDS, where the end product is a printed report, *Our Economy* will be web-based at www.oureconomy.info to provide more information and make it more easily accessible. Todd Horner encouraged anyone interested in getting more information on the project to sign-up for email updates on the website or consider attending meetings of SWRPC's Economic Development Advisory Committee.

V. Featured Presentation: *Promoting the Monadnock Region*

Mr. Murphy noted that like the two SWRPC programs highlighted during the staff report, the *Promoting the Monadnock Region* initiative is linked to the economic well-being of this region in the future. He welcomed Luca Paris, Jamie Trowbridge, and Julie Schoelzel from the Greater Keene and Peterborough Chamber.

Jamie Trowbridge acknowledged the assistance that SWRPC has provided in developing their initiative. Having grown-up in Dublin, Jamie noted that there have been many changes over the years and the initiative is based on what is it about the Monadnock Region that makes it great and how can we tell the rest of the world about it. We need to tell people what we have to offer and encourage them to join us if they like

what they see. Branding is a picture you have in your mind when you talk about a place. You need to consider when you think about that place is it for a personal visit, move, job opportunity, investment or business expansion. The challenge is to narrow the image down to one thing that will serve as the reason someone would come to our region. It has become harder for smaller communities to compete in attracting jobs, talent, residents, tourists, and investors. It is a known fact that our region is going to age-out. In addition to our overall population decreasing, our senior population is increasing while our student population is declining. The unemployment rate for Cheshire County shows there are 950 people unemployed and 4,000 jobs that need to be filled. Although this initiative is not about tourism, prior to coming here to live, people often come to visit. Research shows that not many people outside of our state are familiar with our region. The initiative is being funded in-part through grants to the Chamber and Cheshire County from the U. S. Economic Development Administration. A qualified consultant has been hired to assist with the branding and marketing efforts that is from outside the region so they can apply that outsider perspective to the initiative.

Julie Schoelzel provided an overview of the work that is being done by the branding and marketing consultant which includes public engagement, research gathering, identifying distinct characteristics, consensus building, and brand activation. She noted that the consultant came to the region for five days last October and covered over 200 miles gathering information. It is anticipated that the brand for the region will be identified and ready to be released in Spring/Summer of this year. She showed several samples of brands that have been created for other regions. Once our brand has been identified a marketing plan will be initiated that will include what do we want to happen? who should we target? where should we market? and how will we measure our success? The goal of the initiative is "preserving and enhancing our quality of life and vitality for generations to come". She explained that people can help with the effort by spreading the word, taking the regional survey (over 800 have already participated) and signing up to be a brand ambassador at www.brandingmonadnock.com.

Luca Paris noted that the largest part of this initiative is helping to spread the word. He stated that every time we invite someone to the Region we are showing it off and hopefully they will want to come back. The intent is not to replace any marketing efforts being conducted by others but to enhance and help with their efforts. He noted that the Chamber will be very active in promoting the brand at various expos and gatherings.

Cyndy Burgess from the Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce questioned why the marketing consultant didn't include Jaffrey in the first round of interviews. Jamie Trowbridge noted that he had accompanied the consultant on their driving tour and had pointed out several places in Jaffrey. He also noted that they had wanted to meet with representatives from Millipore but were unable to make the connection. Julie Schoelzel said they were able to conduct an interview with the Jaffrey Town Manager. Tim Murphy asked if there will be future opportunities to provide local input and Julie Schoelzel responded that there would be. Chairman Mullins suggested that both the Jaffrey and Rindge Chambers of Commerce should be involved in the project and Luca Paris noted that he plans to reach out to them. Leandra MacDonald asked if there will be some kind of on-line venue for everything that happens in this region and Julie Schoelzel responded that this is being developed at this time. Andrew Smeltz noted that he had wanted to return to this region earlier than he did but both housing and the job market were obstacles for him. Leslie Casey noted that it is important to consider how to keep our younger people from moving away. Mr. Murphy

noted that by working together and drawing connections between housing needs, workforce and building a region to stay economically competitive we will be making real progress.

Chairman Mullins thanked the group for an excellent presentation.

VI. Adjourn

Chairman Mullins thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca I. Baldwin

Rebecca I. Baldwin

Office Manager

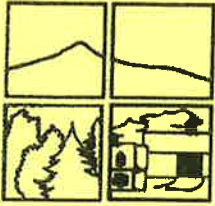
Attendance List**SWRPC Winter Commission Meeting - February 8, 2022**

NAME	POSITION
Avery, Ellen	CVTC
Baldwin, Becky	SWRPC Office Manager
Barden, Brian	SWRPC Board of Directors
Burgess, Cyndy	President, Jaffrey Chamber of Commerce
Carbonneau, Sara	SWRPC Board of Directors
Casey, Leslie	SWRPC Commissioner
Clough, Rich	SWRPC Office Support Specialist
Collins, Jill	SWRPC Board of Directors
Cota, Michele	Senator Shaheen's Office
Dwyer, Tammy	Cheshire Medical Center
Graham, Bobby	Senator Hassan's Office
Horner, Todd	SWRPC Senior Planner
Johnson, Terry	SWRPC Senior Project Manager
Kahn, Jay	NH State Senator District 10
Lawton, Janel	Department of Business and Economic Affairs
Levesque, Joe	SWRPC Commissioner
Lockwood, Camilla	SWRPC Board of Directors
MacDonald, Leandra	SWRPC Board of Directors
Mack, J. B.	SWRPC Principal Planner
Mayberry, Cheryl	SWRPC Board of Directors
Melone, Danica	Town Planner
Merrell, Ed	SWRPC Board of Directors
Monroe, Carole	Town of Dublin/Monadnock Broadband Group
Morin, Butch	SWRPC Board of Directors
Mullins, Tom	SWRPC Board of Directors
Murphy, Lisa	SWRPC Senior Planner
Murphy, Tim	SWRPC Executive Director
Orsatti, Maria	Cheshire Medical Center
Paris, Luca	Greater Keene/Peterborough Chamber
Pschirrer, Peggy	Selectman
Pierre, Sandy	Selectman
Plourde, Jason	VHB Trans. Systems Team Leader
Redfern, Chuck	Rail trails advocate
Robidoux, Christine	Planning Board
Rzaza, Ron	SWRPC Economic Development Advisory Comm.
Schoelzel, Julie	Greater Keene/Peterborough Chamber
Slack, Pam	Senator Shaheen's Office
Smeltz, Andrew	SWRPC Planner
Smith, Bruce	SWRPC Commissioner
Snowdon, John	SWRPC Board of Directors
Sweet, Ann	SWRPC Commissioner
Talwani, Michele	Community Loan Fund
Thibault, Keith	SWRPC Economic Development Advisory Comm.
Trowbridge, Jamie	Yankee Publishing
Underwood, Henry	SWRPC GIS Technician/Planner
Welsh, Alison	Cheshire County
Zahn, Tricia	Cheshire Medical Center

FY 2022/23 Work Program Budget

Agenda Item III (a)

INCOME	2022/23 Budget
Local Planning	
OSI TBG	11,111
Planning Assistance Projects	25,000
Natural Resource Planning	
DES Watershed Management	120,000
Transportation Planning	
DOT UPWP	395,000
Complete Streets Implementation	305,000
Mobility Manager	120,000
Community & Economic Development	
CDBG Administration	90,000
Regional Economic Development	175,000
Information Management	
GIS Assistance	12,000
Emergency Management Planning	
Hazard Mitigation Planning	27,500
Emergency Operations Planning	17,500
Other Projects	
EPA Brownfields	70,000
Public Health Planning	60,000
Regional Housing Needs Assessment	40,000
Regional Plan Update	50,000
Broadband Technical Assistance	25,000
Administrative	
Municipal Dues	92,907
NHARPC	0
Publications	3,000
Copy/Reproduction	1,000
Interest Earned	500
TOTAL	\$1,640,518
EXPENSE	
Salaries	770,000
Benefits	231,618
Contract Services	475,000
Postage	2,500
Telephone	7,500
Office Supplies	15,000
Legal/Accounting/Insurance	18,000
Dues/Subscriptions/Publications/Advertising	18,000
Travel/Training	10,000
Rent	52,000
Utilities	6,000
Traffic Research Vehicle	6,500
Equipment Maintenance/Leases	2,000
Equipment Purchases	10,000
Equipment Depreciation	11,000
Commission Meetings	2,000
Land Use Manuals	2,400
Copy/Reproduction	1,000
TOTAL	\$1,640,518



Southwest Region Planning Commission
37 Ashuelot Street, Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 Voice 603-357-7440 Fax

Agenda Item III (b)

Date: June 14, 2022
To: SWRPC Commissioners
From: Nominating Committee

RE: 2022 Nominating Committee Report

Background

In preparation for the upcoming fiscal year, the Nominating Committee has arrived at the following slate of candidates to serve as SWRPC Officers and Board of Directors.

Officers

Tom Mullins, Peterborough, Chairman
Sara Carbonneau, Winchester, Vice-Chairman
Gus Lerandeau, Swanzey, Vice-Chairman
Larry Robinson, Marlborough, Secretary
Jill Collins, Hinsdale, Treasurer

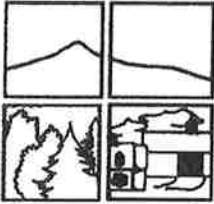
Board of Directors (in addition to Officers)

Brian Barden, Dublin
Chris Coates, Cheshire County
Joe Levesque, Alstead
Leandra MacDonald, Peterborough
Cheryl Mayberry, Walpole
Ed Merrell, Jaffrey
Butch Morin, Richmond
Kate Neary, Harrisville
Christine Robidoux, Temple
John Snowden, Westmoreland

Appointments are to cover the period from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Recommendation

Acceptance of the above slate in electing SWRPC Officers and Board of Directors to serve during FY 2022/23.



Southwest Region Planning Commission
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Agenda Item IV

Date: June 14, 2022
To: SWRPC Commissioners
From: Staff

RE: Transportation Advisory Committee

Background

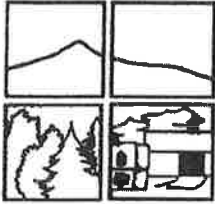
Since SWRPC's Winter Commission Meeting on February 8, 2022, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has met twice.

- On April 4th, a representative from the Federal Highway Administration visited the TAC to deliver a presentation and answer questions about the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- On June 6th, SWRPC staff and representatives from NH Department of Transportation presented draft guidance for the draft 2025-2034 NH Transportation Improvement Plan update including information about available funding, project criteria and schedules for submitting regional priority projects.

At both the April and June meetings, staff also updated the TAC on a number of SWRPC transportation planning program activities including its ongoing Transit and Shared Ride Feasibility Study, efforts to plan for electric vehicle charging stations in the region and updates on the Monadnock Region Coordinating Council for Community Transportation and Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation.

Recommendation

For your information.



Southwest Region Planning Commission

37 Ashuelot Street, Keene, NH 03431

603-357-0557 Voice

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Agenda Item IV

Date: June 14, 2022
To: SWRPC Commissioners
From: Staff

RE: Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Committee

Background

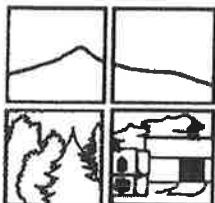
Since the Winter Commission Meeting on February 8, 2022, the Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC) met on February 24, 2022. Following is a summary of the meeting:

- Updates were provided for on-going watershed management projects for Spofford Lake in Chesterfield, Lake Warren in Alstead and the Ashuelot River corridor through Southwest NH.
- A presentation was provided in conjunction with the Monadnock Sustainability Hub, SWRPC Staff on New Hampshire's Community Power program in the Monadnock Region. An overview was provided of the benefits to communities buying energy in bulk at a wholesale rate and how it works. The role of the Monadnock Sustainability Hub was described as well as efforts in Peterborough and other communities in the region to bring Community Power to their towns.

The next ENRAC meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2022.

Recommendation

For your information.



Southwest Region Planning Commission
37 Ashuelot Street, Keene, NH 03431 603-357-0557 Voice 603-357-7440 Fax

Agenda Item IV

Date: June 14, 2022
To: Commissioners
From: Staff

RE: Economic Development Advisory Committee

Background

The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) last met on April 27, 2022. The agenda focused on discussion regarding *Our Economy: A Strategy for Southwest NH*, the forthcoming update to the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Committee reviewed draft goals and objectives and discussed possible revisions. The goals and objectives will help provide a strategic direction for regional economic development activities, provide a map for enhancing collaboration among stakeholders and serve as a framework for identifying priority projects. The draft goals and objectives (attached) will undergo continued refinement, incorporating input from regional stakeholders and findings from ongoing data analysis.

Also in connection with *Our Economy*, SWRPC staff is co-organizing a community open mic event to share, gather, develop, and promote innovative ideas aimed at helping the Monadnock Region and its local communities thrive. The *Idea Jam for Communities Innovators* is organized in partnership with the Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship, and will be held on June 29th at 5:00 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.hannahgrimes.com/pitchfork-community-idea>.

The next meeting of the EDAC is scheduled for July 13, 2022.

Recommendation

For your information.

Our Economy - A Strategy for Southwest NH

Working Draft of Goals and Objectives

Sustain our rural population by creating space and opportunity for new residents.

- Attract and retain young people.
 - [STRATEGY 1 - TBD]
 - [STRATEGY 2 - TBD]
 - ...
- Develop tourism programs and initiatives to draw in visitors as well as prospective residents, workers, and students.
- Develop and promote Southwest NH as a welcoming and inclusive place for all, celebrating diversity in race, culture, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, creed, physical ability, and neurodiversity.

Develop and maintain the high-quality physical infrastructure necessary to support economic prosperity.

- Continue to expand broadband access, with a focus on digital equity and closing the digital divide.
- Support energy efficiency measures and renewable energy production (especially production at the local level).
- Expand the housing supply to provide options for households of different types and income levels.
- Cultivate main streets and village centers that serve as hubs of economic activity, community life, and cultural history.
- Maintain and upgrade public water and sewer infrastructure, with an emphasis on existing systems and currently developed areas.
- Develop transportation infrastructure and services that expand mobility options for a wide variety of user groups, including those without access to a personal vehicle.

Build social infrastructure that empowers individuals, households, and local communities to reach their full potential.

- Expand the availability of quality, affordable childcare.
- Preserve and develop high-caliber educational institutions at the primary, secondary, post-secondary levels.
- Improve access to healthcare services.
- Recognize arts, culture, and recreation as key drivers of regional economic development and support related initiatives accordingly.
- Develop and promote programs that support upward economic mobility.
- Encourage civic participation and cultivate the next generation of local decisionmakers.

Provide the business infrastructure necessary to increase firm viability and growth.

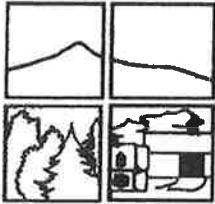
- Increase access to business-related services and resources, including financial capital and technical assistance.
- Enhance career pathways for a variety of students and other workforce entrants.
- Ensure that businesses already in the region have the resources and support to grow while also welcoming firms interested in opening or relocating to the region.
- Further develop the regional entrepreneurial ecosystem, creating fertile ground for startups and small businesses.
- Identify and build on existing regional economic specializations, leveraging competitive advantages and growing productive economic clusters.

Lay the groundwork for a more sustainable future.

- Mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and improve regional resilience in face of a changing climate.
- Protect working landscapes and grow the local agricultural sector.
- Preserve natural resources critical to the region's outdoor economy.

Enhance collective capacity & coordination.

- Improve systems for sharing resources (people, equipment, services, facilities) across municipal boundaries.
- Work together to communicate more effectively with state and federal decisionmakers about rural and regional issues.



Southwest Region Planning Commission
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Agenda Item IV

Date: June 14, 2022
To: SWRPC Commissioners
From: Staff

RE: Brownfields Advisory Committee

Background

Following the expiration of SWRPC's grant award from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for brownfields assessment activities in September 2021, the Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) has not met. SWRPC was notified by EPA in May 2022 of a new grant award in the amount of \$500,000 to resume brownfields assessment activities. The award will become effective on October 1, 2022 and will last for a period of four years until September 30, 2026.

SWRPC staff has notified the BrAC about the award and will be following-up to secure a schedule of upcoming environmental assessment activities. Over the summer, SWRPC plans to form a BrAC Subcommittee to assist staff in developing a process for procuring environmental assessment and legal services in conjunction with the grant award.

Recommendation

For your information.