

**MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

SOUTHERN MAINE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**9:00 AM
May 26, 2011**

In attendance were: SMRPC Executive Director Paul Schumacher, Chairman Peter Morelli, Vice Chairman Rob Heard, Judy Bernstein, Gerry Mylroie, Nancy Perkins, Jan Williams and Dave Bowles.

Absent: Secretary Joyce Wood, Jim Gulnac, Roxanne Eflin, and Greg Tansley.

1. Minutes of the January 20th Meeting:

Dave Bowles made the motion to accept the minutes as presented and Gerry Mylroie seconded the motion. Unanimous Vote.

Minutes of April 28th Meeting:

*Dave Bowles made the motion to accept the minutes with change to **Other** and Gerry Mylroie seconded with change to **#7 HUD Sustainable Communities Project**. See amendments below. Unanimous Vote.*

Other:

Dave Bowles took a tour of the jail renovations. Additional office space will be available to others who work with the County for a small fee. A Grant from EMA Feds is being investigated. Phase I – Started with contractors on site.

HUD Sustainable Communities Project:

Gerry Mylroie reported on this project. Application has been approved. There has been little communication from GPCOG. Election of two co-chairs: Gerry and the Town Manager; Gordon Billington from Standish. Bylaws approved. Need to find a Vice Co-Chair.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Paul reported that we're breaking even so far. Monies that we anticipate; we don't get and then we get monies that we didn't expect. He will work with Peg to explain in more detail some of the items. We are not getting as many calls for help from towns. The Fiscal Year budget runs from July 1st to June 30th. The flexible cash we get from dues have no specific contract and can be flexible. Limington's Town Meeting voted not to fund SMRPC. Paul made a call, but has not received a return.

3. Budget:

A motion to approve the 2012 budget with Revenue of \$795,000 and Expenditures of \$794,522 was made by Rob Heard and Seconded by Nancy Perkins. Unanimous Vote.

Transportation:

- Monies come in every year and no indication of change for this year.
- Additional work with a \$10,000 budget from Lebanon for the York County Corridor Study, Rt. 202, due to Sanford's bill to include Lebanon.

Economic Development:

- DECD monies may become an issue concerning business development. Chuck working with 2 to 3 businesses a week explaining Pine Tree Development.

Land Use:

- SPO monies have been supported to be reinstated. Administrative folks feel SMRPC is very beneficial and Kevin Raye wants to keep money in Regional Planning Agencies.
- Coastal Resiliency/Sea Level Rise monies will continue.
- Jamie and JT were both working towns full-time last year, but work has dried up.

Energy:

- County Jail, we are assisting in remodeling old jail into offices for EMA and other offices.
- DOE Grant for Kittery RLF – 6-town Energy Program.

Rob Heard reported that Porter may be needing SMRPC for Comp Plan advice soon. Doing most of the work in-house, but will need assistance later on. Also Porter has a new subdivision in the works: 4 houses. May also need assistance from SMRPC for review.

Dave Bowles asked about the discrepancy in our 2010 revenue amount of \$747,000 and the April 30th Final Report amount of \$830,000. Paul will review the Annual Report and send an e-mail with explanation to committee.

Paul informed the committee that presently SMRPC has a "Nest Egg" amount of about \$200,000.

Was asked about the Brownfield funds. Do we have separate checking accounts? Paul stated that yes, plus now because of the Brownfields amounts, we hold higher level of auditing.

Staffing will remain the same as current level. No new hires or Jamie replacement.

Paul explained that the budget is subject to change throughout the year. The numbers are not cast in stone. Only a guideline, amounts change monthly.

4. Board Members:

Paul suggested we need about 3 to 4 new members on the committee. And, we also need to find a new Chairperson, as Peter Morelli wants to step-down. Wells, Ogunquit, South Berwick, Berwick, Eliot, Waterboro, Hollis, Brownfield, Denmark, Stow, Stoneham, Sweden would be good towns to be on committee. Especially Oxford County, as once the Econ Dev. area is finalized, Oxford will be part of SMRPC's area.

Paul got a call from Ann Fisher, Newfield Comp Plan Board Member who is interested. Suggested Fryeburg's Town Manager – Sharon Jackson. Greg Tansley voiced that he still wants to be on committee, and that this year should have more time to attend meetings.

A sub-committee (Dave Bowles and Rob Heard) was established to go out and find new members. Rob will contact Fryeburg Town Manager, Sharon Jackson.

Eleanor Murphy from Berwick was also suggested.

Officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary will need to be chosen. We need to have nominating committee decide and get names to Marian before the Annual Meeting.

5. Annual Meeting:

June 24th. Same location as last year and same price as last year: \$20.00/person. Peter Mills from DOT has agreed to be the presenter. Suggested that we invite Governor LePage to introduce ourselves and show him what we do.

It was suggested that the committee e-mail Paul or give to Dave Bowles with topics of interest for Peter Mills to discuss.

- Sanford Corridor
- Memorial Bridge
- York Toll Plaza
- Long-term Plans and how will they expand out.
- When will they rebid Turnpike Engineering Services, since 1947?

Suggested that Paul have a good size map for presentation at meeting.

It was asked that Paul get the invitation out for the Annual Meeting so folks could pass around. Also on invitation, list topics that Peter Mills will be talking about. May draw more interest.

6. York County Advocacy Project:

County Jails: Dave Bowles spoke about the County Jail Budget. The \$280,000 difference, which was added into the jail budget. LD82 bill to amend laws concerning jail budgets. BOC wants to hold this bill until budget is complete. We want this bill exempted and sent directly to Governor. Will save \$280,000 a year if passed.

Economic Development: Peter Morelli spoke on EB-5 Immigrant Investment Program. This bill concerns Federal Immigration Laws concerning Visa's. Invest in a business for \$1 million. Will help investor and families get into another category of Visa. Thornton Academy has jumped aboard. FAME has money, lawyers and planning to add to DECD. Want to get a proposal to have Maine become a designated VISA Geography. Only 10,000 Visa's in Country each year. J-PEAK, Vermont opened a \$90,000 resort program with folks from Ireland and UK. A great source of revenue.

Great Works School: Paul got an e-mail stating that Sanford Tech School has not been put into 2nd position because of Many Flags School. Paul will check into this more.

York County Community College: A bill proposed by Senator Courtney for Pratt & Whitney, Shipyard and General Dynamics that they need machinists. There are no training programs available. Trying to find funding to do training. Talk from committee about YCCC not losing technical aspect of education. We should be concentrating on training our kids to keep them here in Maine in skilled professions. It was also shared that we should separate our technical training with other educational classes.

7. Mobilize Maine:

Fairpoint Communications agrees to work with Maine, Regional Economic Development Districts in a planning process in Northern and Eastern Maine. So far seems to be working very well. Paul feels it is good for us to start the process. We do need an Economic Development strategy documenting our assets and how we can build on them. . The Maine State Chamber has agreed to help fund. This will be a Work Force Development Program. A Grant for \$1.2 million has been applied for, which will include Oxford County. Paul to keep committee informed. Paul explained that Education was a huge piece in this process involving labor/training. There is a lack of communication between different organizations, thus all doing the same thing, without the other knowing.

Gerry Mylroie stated that this is why we need a Regional Planning process to fit into our plans. We need four to five workshops, and sub-committees to coordinate.

Other:

Economic Development District – Dave Bowles will contact Alan Brigham and speak to him to see if he can get this moved along. Paul told committee that he had a telephone conference call with Mike Michaud and explained where the process has stopped. Process goes from Alan Brigham to Philadelphia to Washington and is still on Alan's desk.

Next Meeting: Annual Meeting – June 22, 2011