

**REGIONAL EFFICIENCY GRANT WORKGROUP
MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH BERWICK TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE
Thursday, September 20, 2007
3:00 PM**

ATTENDEES

Eliot: Jack Murphy, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.
Kittery: Jonathan Carter, Town Manager.
Nelson & Doyle: Craig Nelson, Consultant.
SMRPC: Paul Schumacher, President.
So. Berwick: Jeffrey Grossman, Town Manager, Roberta Orsini, Executive Assistant and Jim Fisk, Town Planner.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Berwick: Keith Trefethen, Town Manager.
Eliot: Dan Blanchette, Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen.
Kittery: Glenn Shweary, Town Council Chairman.
North Berwick: Dwayne Morin, Town Manager.
SMRPC: Chuck Morgan, Economic Development Specialist.
So. Berwick: Dennis Fontaine.
Wells: Jane Duncan, Town Manager and Mike Huston, Town Planner.
York: Rob Yandow, Town Manager.
York Chamber: Cathy Goodwin, Ex-officio.

Susie Scott (Administrative Assistant) was taking minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No quorum present to approve minutes.

1. Regional Efficiency Grant Workgroup 5/10/07.
2. Regional Efficiency Grant Workgroup 7/19/07.
3. Regional Efficiency Grant Workgroup 8/16/07.

CORRESPONDENCE

- none.

OLD BUSINESS

- none.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss topics outlined in Craig Nelson’s September 13th memo.

Steering Committee discussed the following items:

Legislation to create an Authority: Craig Nelson discussed the October 4, 2007 deadline to submit a bill and file a request to legislature. Mr. Nelson spoke with Libby Mitchell this past week. She stated she would be a sponsor for the bill. Mr. Nelson will follow up with Ms. Mitchell and contact other legislators possibly including Senators, Jonathan Courtney, Peter Bowman and Dick Nass. Legislation to be acted upon in January, 2008.

Minimum number of participating communities: Committee agreed to a minimum of 2 participating towns. Legislation language to add flexibility to allow future York County communities to join the Authority. The Committee discussed the role of SMRPC as a member versus a natural partner.

Authority to take a 2-Phase Approach:

- Planning (communities contribute equal amounts).
- Results from Planning (secure funding for specific projects).

Authority Staff: Committee discussed having a dedicated Authority staff member that would be an outside hire or as a direct Authority employee.

Creation of workforce housing and use of TIF monies: Mr. Nelson stated that TIF monies are created in the specific communities where the property is located but the Authority, comprised of all community members, would ultimately decide how to spend the TIF monies. Monies from a TIF loan could buy down the purchase price of a property to keep that property affordable. A TIF loan would be made to the Authority.

The Committee concluded that a follow up presentation to all town selectmen and council members should occur this fall regarding legislation update.

OTHER

The Committee requested Roberta Orsini contact participating Steering Committee members with regard to attendance to future meetings.

Dates & Times for Upcoming Meeting:

10/25/07 – 3:00 PM Regional Efficiency Grant Workgroup
Location: Town Manager’s Office, South Berwick

Meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm.

ATTESTED: _____

**Susie Scott,
Assistant to the Director of Planning & Economic Development**