

**REGIONAL EFFICIENCY GRANT WORKGROUP  
MEETING MINUTES  
SOUTH BERWICK TOWN MANAGER'S OFFICE  
Friday, January 25, 2008  
2:00 PM**

**ATTENDEES**

**Berwick:** Keith Trefethen, Town Manager.  
**Eliot:** Jack Murphy, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Dan Blanchette,  
Administrative Assistant  
**Kittery:** Jonathan Carter, Town Manager  
**Nelson & Doyle:** Craig Nelson, Consultant.  
**SMRPC:** Paul Schumacher, President  
**So. Berwick:** Jeffrey Grossman, Town Manager, Jim Fisk, Town Planner, Dennis Fontaine,  
Alternate.

**GUESTS**

**Acton:** Senator Richard Nass  
**Eliot:** Representative Sally Lewin  
**South Berwick:** Representative Bonnie Gould  
**York:** Peter Bowman

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

**Kittery:** Glenn Shweary, Town Council.  
**No. Berwick** Dwayne Morin, Town Manager  
**SMRPC:** Chuck Morgan, Economic Development Specialist..  
**Wells:** Jane Duncan, Town Manager, Mike Huston, Town Planner.  
**York:** Rob Yandow, Town Manager.  
**York Chamber:** Cathy Goodwin, Ex-officio.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

So. Berwick Jean Demetracopoulos, Town Councilor  
So. Berwick Michelle Kareckas, Town Councilor  
So. Berwick David Ramsay, Portsmouth Herald

Roberta Orsini (Executive Assistant) was taking minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. **Regional Efficiency Grant Workgroup 1/10/08:** Motion by Mr. Murphy, second by Mr. Grossman to accept minutes as written, passed unanimously.

## **REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

none

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Craig Nelson reviewed the Public Hearing held on January 17<sup>th</sup> and discussed an overview of the legislative work session scheduled for 2-26-08.

This will be a short session; the legislature will adjourn by third week of April. Not a lot of leeway in terms of time. The BRED committee felt there needs to be a better effort to inform the general public. There are misconceptions and ideas of what this legislation could do; we need to make sure everyone understands what this is about. Some believe if legislation passes, it is a so called done deal. There is false information out there; we need to get together as soon as possible to inform the public with correct information and to provide feedback to the BRED committee.

Of primary concern was the issue of takings. This concerned citizens, they immediately assumed the authority would begin to take properties by eminent domain. We should take those words out, to allay fears. The authority will negotiate for property like everyone else.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The committee discussed the best location, the number of meetings and the best approach to get word out to the public. Based upon the feedback received during these meetings, the committee needs to schedule a meeting to determine what will be returned to the BRED committee.

After lengthy discussion on the best locations for the meetings the committee agreed upon two meetings, one to be held at Noble High School the other at Marshwood High School.

The necessity of a web presence was discussed and agreed upon. Public Access to the meeting was requested, if possible through the schools. The Weekly Sentinel was suggested as the best vehicle for dissemination of material. It was suggested all the communities place these meetings on their websites. It was requested we determine if these meetings can be broadcast via a public access channel. Voice streaming was also suggested.

The purpose of the Public Information Meetings will be to educate the public on how this authority will operate if it is enacted, to gather input for final amendments and to report back to the BRED Committee.

Craig Nelson will develop a FAQ sheet to deal with genuine concerns raised and respond with facts. The committee discussed several of the concerns they were aware of and requested Senator Bowman forward all emails relating to this legislation so no concerns will be overlooked.

The committee discussed several possible amendments.

Takings:

Removal of the language which refers to takings.

Valuation / population:

Remove valuation from bill now and replace with a requirement that when you have a plan the plan will include the formula for apportioning votes & cost.

Communities:

Add town of York as their Selectmen voted during their December 17, 2007 meeting to participate in the planning stages of the SYCRDA.

Delay cutoff, June 30, 2009.

Senator Bowman discussed two broad categories of criticism. Lack of Publicity, which he felt was unjustified. The opinion the statue is intimidating, on steroids, too much power. Senator Bowman suggested we might want to think about those issues. Senator Bowman felt we need to communicate with each other better. Keep me informed and I'll let you know if I'm getting too much info.

Follow up by Representative Gould, style is crucial. When the member of the public raises a concern it is not frivolous. Attitude is everything. There are no dumb questions.

Additional discussion ensued concerning outstanding invoices from Doyle & Nelson. The original grant funds have almost been fully expended. Jim and Chuck are applying for a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Grant Funding. We will also be applying to Kennebunk Savings. Mr. Nelson has agreed to absorb his invoices if necessary.

## **OTHER**

### **Dates & Times for Upcoming Meeting:**

(2) Public Information Sessions: dates/times to be determined.

2/22/07 – 2:00 PM	Regional Efficiency Grant Workgroup Location: 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor Auditorium, South Berwick
2/26/08-1:00 PM	BRED Work Session Cross Office Building Room 208 Augusta

Meeting Adjourned at 3:32 PM

**ATTESTED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roberta Orsini,  
Executive Assistant**