

Rockingham Planning Commission
Legislative Policy Committee

Meeting of March 14, 2016
Memorandum to Executive Board

Attending: Barbara Kravitz, Chair, Tim Moore, James van Bokkelen, Cliff Sinnott,

As developed during this year, and with the Executive Committee's encouragement, our Committee's strategy is to identify priority legislation concentrating on the following areas:

Net Metering
Transportation
Agriculture/Agritourism
Coastal Risks and Hazards
Regional State Planning
SB146

The current RPC House and Senate Legislation Tracking Table, compiled by Tim Moore was distributed. Great thanks to Tim for compiling and updating the status of House and Senate bills that may be of concern to RPC during this session. It is a large task to narrow down the list from the approximately 900 filings. The Committee reviewed the list and tagged those items that need watching during the crossover from the House to the Senate and vice versa. The NHARPC listing also was distributed and reviewed in the same manner. Members are watching certain individual bills and will report at our May meeting when Tim will have an updated tracking table.

SB146 Accessory Dwellings – We've been informed that the Senate concurred with the House version of SB146 without going to conference committee, and the Bill will be sent to the Governor for signing. This was placed on our Agenda to consider possible next steps, if any. We noted that RPC has already written to the Legislature about our concerns. Given our understanding that the promoters are steadfast and determined that this Bill become law as is, we think it would be fruitless for RPC to campaign at this time for changes in certain provisions that adversely affect some RPC members. The good news is that this Bill will not take effect until 2017, and at least 2 legislators have agreed to introduce legislation with amendments in the next session. So the Committee will look again at the provisions of SB146 in a few months to focus on how big a problem this could be, and how to reach out for amendment consensus (eg Ben Frost). Rick Tainter has already provided his comments for consideration. That said, the Hampton Planning Board has written a strong letter to the Governor asking that SB146 not be signed into law (see attached).

Legislative Policy Forum – While last year's Forum was very well-received, one comment was that the Agenda was a bit crowded with so many speakers. Glenn Coppelman was commended for the way he paced the program. We recommend that the 2016 Forum on November 9 continue to be held at Unutil in Hampton as they are a very willing host, the venue is accommodating both for the ambiance of the "meet and greet" and the forum program. The food is good and displayed attractively.

As previously endorsed by the Executive Board, the topic for the 2016 Forum is "Economic Development". With such a broad topic, the Committee explored how to narrow the focus for a useful presentation agenda, expert presenters, and the follow-on interchange. After much discussion, our underlying thoughts and ideas to consider for structuring the program are below. Please study them and provide comments and suggestions to Cliff and me by April 22, 2016.

- economic strategic development for the region means managing increased density, the sharing of municipal resources, recognizing that impacts are not confined to one community, and preserving the NH quality of life
- the first task is how to identify regional needs and potential opportunities for cooperation and improvement
- role of counties
- finding consensus for how to build the environment where necessary change can happen and people like the result (eg sea level rise);
- researching what works, what are the impediments, what are the successful incentives;
- enabling creation of a regional land use plan coupled with local demographics
- potential funding options (eg TIFs, exaction methodology, infrastructure redevelopment)
- housing to attract new employees
- traffic remediation
- what legislative action or intervention should occur (eg., clean water, aged contaminated pipes)

As for potential program participants, we all felt that Laurel Bistany of REDC would be a good choice either as an individual presenter or as part of a speaker's panel. Laurel would be please to participate and has the date on her calendar. Other possible speakers could include the Jeffrey Rose Commissioner of DRED, Carmen Lorenz, Director of Economic Development at DRED, legislator(s), developer, business participation, economic development director from another venue.

The LPC will meet again on May 9. We've agreed to invite Representative Rennie Cushing to our meeting as he's indicated a desire to do so. Also at that meeting the Committee wants to bring together the agenda for the Forum. Please study the above and provide your comments to Cliff or to me.

Thanks for your help.

Submitted by

Barbara Kravitz, Chair
RPC/LPC