

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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MINUTES
LRPC COMMISSION MEETING

Gilford Public Library
Gilford, NH
September 30, 2103

PRESIDING: Stanley Bean, Jr.
QUORUM: Yes

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.
COMMUNITIES PRESENT: 13

MEMBERS PRESENT:**LRPC STAFF:**

Robert Daniels (Alton)	Gerald Coogan
John Cotton (Andover)	Marie Gelinis
David Kerr (Barnstead)	Kimon Koulet
Jean Marshall (Freedom)	
Scott Dunn (Gilford)	OTHERS:
Stanley O. Bean, Jr. (Gilmanton)	John Scannell (Gilford)
Mitch Manseau (Hebron)	Kathy Bernard (Wolfeboro Planning Board)
Robert Snelling (Holderness)	Dave Farley (Tamworth)
William Bayard (Meredith)	Jerry Gagnon (Gilford Planning Board)
Wayne Crowley (Northfield)	Bob Ward (Sanbornton)
Douglas Reed (Northfield)	Other interested parties
Patricia Jones (Ossipee)	
Pat Farley (Tamworth)	SPEAKERS:
Joe Jesseman (Tilton)	Dennis Delay (NHCPP)
	Carmen Lorentz (BEDC)
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	
Barbara Perry (Moultonborough)	

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman Stan Bean called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

2. Motion for Approval of the April 29, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2013 LRPC Commission meeting was made and unanimously approved. *M/S/P Farley/Snelling.*

3. Searching for an Economic Recovery

K. Koulet made introductory remarks regarding the role of RPC's in regional planning and developing a comprehensive area wide plan. He briefly reviewed the process that took place to develop the first Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) five or six years ago, and said that it is now necessary to update the CEDS in order for projects to maintain eligibility for EDA funding. He introduced Economist Dennis Delay of the NH Center for Public Policy and NH Forecast Manager for The New England Economic Partnership. D. Delay's presentation focused on economic conditions in the Lakes Region and how they differ from other regions in the state. He shared statistics on various economic indicators in the Region:

- Approximately 10% of NH residents reside in the Region;
- 3.3% of workers commute to out of state jobs (the lowest in the state);

- 14.3% of all wages are generated through manufacturing;
- 5.9% of all wages are generated through the tourism industry;
- The Region is second in the state in percentage of second homes and the highest in property value per capita (high property values attract property crimes);
- Educational attainment is close to average;
- Poverty and social needs are above state average;
- Average household income is \$68,845 and the average weekly wage is \$698.50.

There is evidence that indicates modest economic growth continues in New Hampshire and is expected to continue into the future. In the current recession, New Hampshire had less of a decline in job loss percentage wise than the rest of the country, but is lagging in terms of the strength of recovery relative to the national experience. In past recessions, New Hampshire's population has grown at a fairly rapid rate during recovery; however, migration has slowed over the past decade. New Hampshire population forecasts have been revised down, especially for 0-19 year olds. Forecasts for the Region show an increase in the senior population and a decrease in younger populations over the next 10-15 years. Persons 55 and over are more likely to own a home, which will have effects on the housing market, rental market and spending habits. It is projected that an increase in the school aged population in the state will not occur until 2030. In the context of these projections, the question is what should the state invest in - human capital, economic creativity, business base, costs of business, infrastructure or quality of life. The NH Center for Public Policy looked at how New Hampshire ranks nationally on the top ten public policy economic indicators compared to the three states surrounding it and competitor states. The data indicate that New Hampshire excels on the current top ten economic climate indicators, including ranking second highest in home ownership in the country; however, it lags on future indicators such as student debt (the highest in the country) and health care expenditures. The entire report is likely to be released in the near future and will be accessible through the Center's website. In closing, D. Delay observed that there seems to be a profound relationship between the number of boats registered in the state of New Hampshire and the number of jobs, with a ratio of about six jobs to every boat registered.

4. **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)**

Belknap Economic Development Council Executive Director Carmen Lorentz reviewed the 2013 update of the CEDS for the Lakes Region. The update will maintain project eligibility for funding with the EDA. One of the challenges in compiling the CEDS document is identifying a list of projects that would be eligible for an EDA grant while maintaining a comprehensive document. She noted that the strategy committee was comprised of individuals from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Presentations were heard from various Economic Development Councils, however the Region identified its own demographic and workforce challenges. The analysis conducted in the process of the update did not uncover anything contrary to the information presented by D. Delay. Once an analysis of the existing chapters was developed, the Committee reached out to all Lakes Region communities in an extensive process to identify bricks and mortar projects that would likely be funded by the EDA. The responses were categorized according to goals and objectives developed by the committee, explored in terms of eligibility and an implementation plan was put together. The grant application was completed in July but has not yet been submitted to EDA for approval. The eight goal areas identified in the plan focus on how to create quality jobs, including how to support those who are starting their own business or work for themselves from home. Many of the bricks and mortar projects that were submitted from communities focused on quality of place, and the committee recognized that it is a major factor in attracting a talented workforce. Manufacturing accounts for over 14% of the wages in the Lakes Region, and the sector could be adding additional workers if they can find the skilled workforce. The 2009 CEDS talked about a new economy which included Broadband, social capital, sustainability, and workforce development. The revised CEDS includes a list of 11 projects that fall under goals and objectives that are broader such as Quality of Place and Infrastructure. Examples of projects are the Riverwalk, Laconia; Pedestrian Bridge, Tilton; Sewer line extension, Northfield; water line extension, Tilton Business Park; and a comprehensive redevelopment project in Franklin. The projects must be defined, and must provide job training in addition to building structures. Once the document is approved, it will be submitted

to the EDA. C. Lorentz noted that there has been talk about establishing an Economic Development District, which will make it easier to get larger amounts of money for projects on the list. She has agreed to stay in touch with LRPC in order to facilitate the process of applying for EDA funds, if appropriate. The CEDS committee recognizes that in order to avoid missing out on funding opportunities that might arise, it is very important to keep the project list up to date. A motion to approve the 2013 Lakes Region CEDS was unanimously approved. *M/S/P Manseau/Snelling.*

5. FY14 LRPC Annual Report and FY15 Membership appropriations, Provided

Referring to the FY14 Annual Report and FY15 Membership Appropriations S. Bean said that additional financial information is available in the audit report, which is a public document that is available upon request. After discussion, a motion to approve the FY14 Annual Report and the FY15 Membership Appropriations was unanimously approved. *M/S/P Farley/Crowley.*

6. Vision and Mission Statements /Stanley Bean, Jr.

S. Bean said that when the Board reviewed the Vision and Mission Statements in depth in November 2012, it was recognized that they should be two separate statements. The proposed wording for the Mission Statement is very similar to the existing Mission Statement, and the proposed Vision Statement was derived from an organizational standpoint. The Vision statement addresses how LRPC wishes to be viewed by others in the future. A motion to approve the Mission Statement and Vision Statement was made. *M/S/Snelling/Marshall.* An observation was made that the typographical error in "LRPC" will be corrected.

The motion was unanimously approved with the correction of the typographical error.

7. Other Discussion

Robert Ward (Sanbornton) brought up the notion of "responsive representation" that is referred to in both the current and proposed Mission Statement and Vision Statement, and noted that while membership is full, a number of communities had no representation or underrepresentation. A full slate of representation would be on the order of 50 commissioners and there are 37 listed on the Annual Report. S. Bean said that the Board would welcome suggestions as to how to go about soliciting more representation. K. Koulet noted that this has been a trend for many volunteer boards across the state, and the Commission routinely reaches out to members and communities for more participation. Recruiting commissioners and getting them to participate is an ongoing challenge. C. Lorentz also said that the problem is widespread among community organizations.

8. Adjournment

There being no other business, S. Bean declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.