

## LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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**MINUTES**  
**LRPC COMMISSION MEETING**  
 Tri-County CAP - Tamworth, NH  
**March 31, 2014**

**PRESIDING:** Stanley Bean, Jr.  
**QUORUM:** YES

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 p.m.  
**COMMUNITIES PRESENT:** 18

**MEMBERS PRESENT:****MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

John Cotton (Andover)	Dean Anson (Laconia)
David Kerr (Barnstead)	Patricia Farley (Tamworth)
Steve Favorite (Bristol)	Roger Murray, III (Wolfeboro)
Maureen Criasia (Center Harbor)	
Tony Giunta (Franklin)	
Jean Marshall (Freedom)	<b>LRPC STAFF:</b>
John Ayer (Gilford)	Jeffrey Hayes
John Morgenstern (Gilford)	Gerald Coogan
Mitch Manseau (Hebron)	Karin Landry
Robert Snelling (Holderness)	
Warren Hutchins (Laconia)	
William Bayard (Meredith)	<b>OTHERS:</b>
Herb Vadney (Meredith)	Rosemary Landry (Meredith)
Barbara Perry (Moultonborough)	Harry Viens (Center Harbor)
Wayne Crowley (Northfield)	Sam Perry (Moultonborough)
Douglas Reed (Northfield)	Joe Cormier (Moultonborough)
Patricia Jones (Ossipee)	Judy Cormier (Moultonborough)
Jim Hidden (Tamworth)	John Gotjen (Tamworth)
Joseph Jesseman (Tilton)	
Stephen Wingate (Tuftonboro)	

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Chair S. Bean called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. A motion to declare a quorum for the purpose of conducting business was unanimously approved. *M/S/P Snelling/Perry.*

**2. Motion for Approval of the January 27, 2014 Commission Meeting Minutes.**

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2014 LRPC Commission meeting was made and seconded. *M/S Crowley/Cotton.* B. Perry said that the first names of Commissioners Anson and Murray should be changed to "Dean" and "Roger". Motion to approve minutes as amended unanimously passed.

**3. The Lakes Region Plan: An Update/Gerald Coogan, Special Projects Manager**

J. Coogan presented an update on the Lakes Region Plan. Members of the Lakes Region Advisory Committee in attendance were Committee Chair J. Marshall, S. Wingate, R. Snelling, H. Vadney, and J. Cotton. Mr. Coogan said that RSA 36:47 dictates that the powers of a Regional Planning Commission (RPC) are advisory, and that it shall be the duty of an RPC to prepare a comprehensive master plan for the development of the region within its jurisdiction. An RPC makes recommendations that can be accepted, rejected, or modified by the towns within its area. A Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable

Communities Initiative grant was awarded to NH RPCs to develop regional plans that will be used as the basis for the State Development Plan. There are many state and non-profits partners involved in the grassroots "bottom up" approach to developing the regional plans.

Mr. Coogan said that various data and information gathering techniques are being used to demonstrate an effort is being made to seek information at the local level including comment cards and listening boxes; meetings with local officials; a review of Town Master Plans, Vision Statements and planning documents; UNH surveys; open houses and community meetings; and a review of Lakes Region Plans including the Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Mr. Coogan reviewed the priorities identified in the UNH survey:

- Environmental protection and natural resources protection top priority for investing public dollars;
- Efficiency and energy choices second priority for public investment;
- Safe and affordable housing third priority for public investment;
- Encourage local agriculture and activities such as protecting historic buildings and neighborhoods and expanding or promoting current businesses;
- Quality schools most important asset for community;
- Maintain bridges and highways most important priority for transportation funding
- A vast majority of residents have internet access at home and almost all of them consider their internet access adequate for their uses.

He reviewed additional information that has been gathered on importance for communities, environmental protection, housing preferences, activities encouraged, concerns about weather related events, and priorities for public investment.

Commissioners said there were similar results in surveys conducted in their towns. The Town of Barnstead showed transportation and roads as top priority. J. Coogan will post a sample profile for the UNH study on the LRPC website and will forward a complete copy of the survey report via email to those interested in reviewing it.

H. Vadney said that he finds it difficult to believe that safe and affordable housing choices was rated the third priority for public investment. J. Coogan said it could pertain to infrastructure such as water and sewer.

T. Guinta inquired whether the results indicate that more investment is needed for environmental protection. J. Coogan said that environmental protection and natural resources ranks very high in a number of surveys, and that future investments in watershed planning and water management may be an investment people want to make in their communities.

J. Coogan reviewed the regional themes that were identified at the Community of Place meeting on May 7, 2013 including the out migration of younger people, decline in school age population, "greying" of NH and its implications, economic development and job opportunities, educational quality and affordability, internet capability, tourism/industry balance, planning for rural character, housing availability and affordability, transportation, and the environment.

Community of Interest Sessions were held with private groups of people such as disabled, low income, racial/ethnic minorities, seniors, and immigrants.

The Lakes Region Plan Advisory Committee (LRPAC) provides guidance for the Plan Process. The draft chapters completed by the Committee and draft Vision Statement can be viewed at [www.lakesrpc.org](http://www.lakesrpc.org) and [www.granitestatefuture.org](http://www.granitestatefuture.org). The Plan chapters will include:

Economic Development. Create suitable well paying jobs consistent with the stewardship of the region's natural resources, workforce development, new economy; social capital and cultural heritages, sustainability, energy and natural environment, entrepreneurship, creative economy, improve quality of place.

Transportation Implementation. Safety, project development, demand management, public transit, advocacy, walking and biking, and planning.

Housing. Housing needs assessment, economic and diversity characteristics, housing preferences, housing affordability, workforce housing, fair housing and equity assessment.

Environmental. Natural resources, water infrastructure, issues and concerns, and recommendations.

Natural Hazards and Climate Change. Major hazards, impacts, mitigation, anticipated changes, regional/global emissions.

Energy Efficiency and Green Building. Summary of energy planning and green building, integrating energy with traditional planning, examples of regional successes, local support for energy, state and federal programs and recommendations.

J. Coogan reviewed scenario planning including build-out population projections compiled by Community Viz and projections for the growth of advanced manufacturing and entrepreneurship generated by the NH Bureau of Economic and Labor Market Information. This information will not be included in the chapters, but will inform, guide, and provide information regarding planning policies.

The draft chapters must be completed by June 20, 2014 and submitted to the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) by June 30, 2014. A 30-day public review begins on October 1, 2014. The Plan will be presented to Commissioners for adoption in November 2014 and HUD funding ends on December 31, 2014.

The Commissioners were encouraged to help by reviewing draft planning documents, identifying local and regional projects for inclusion in the Implementation Plan, and keeping their communities informed. J. Coogan reiterated that LRPC is advisory only, has no regulatory authority, and that there is no interest in modifying or changing that approach. The plan is going to advocate that the local decision making process will stay in place as it is now, but it is hoped it will be augmented by information and technical assistance.

Advisory Committee Chair J. Marshall said that while the UNH report is lengthy, the survey materials and graphs comprise 30 pages of the report. She said the report is extremely well done and very clear, and encouraged those having an interest to view it online. The Chair of the Freedom Planning Board intends to utilize a few of the questions in the survey during the process of updating the Town's Master Plan.

H. Vadney noted that the flat population in Belknap County and the smaller numbers of the post baby-boomer generation are not reflected in the survey. J. Coogan said that an attempt was made to include projections for slow growth in the Economic Development Chapter when addressing opportunities for high quality jobs and that the population build-out information was included as an exercise as opposed to a plan.

Dialogue ensued regarding opportunities for economic prosperity throughout the nation as a whole and how that might affect the Region. J. Hayes said there is always unknown change in the future and there has been a lot of discussion among RPC directors and others on how to focus on a future designed for adaptability and resilience so that communities are ready for change. While he is not sure of all the answers, there is probably a need to update legislation at some point.

J. Cotton said that natural hazards are a real threat in New Hampshire and that there was recently a small earthquake centered in the Lakes Region.

Dialogue ensued regarding how the job market in the Region and State has lead educated youth to pursue employment in other states, and how a favorable business climate can entice new business to come into the state.

J. Morgenstern suggested making the Plan available for public review as soon as it is in draft form. J. Coogan said that there is an official 30-day review period pursuant to statutes, but it can be available sooner. Copies of the Plan will be given to Commissioners for distribution to their communities. J. Hayes said that the completed draft chapters will be available online in the next day or so and included in the Executive Directors news update. The draft Plan will also be posted online once it is completed.

M. Criasia inquired whether access to healthcare providers and services were identified as a high priority. J. Coogan said it wasn't a high priority at the community of interest meetings, but it would be an area of concern to retirees moving to the area. J. Marshall will share the results of the UNH survey regarding healthcare with M. Criasia via email.

The Commissioners were encouraged to provide information for the implementation section of the Plan by identifying projects of interest to their communities. A spreadsheet was provided, but the information can be submitted in whatever format is most convenient. The form will also be available on the LRPC website. J. Coogan requested that the information be submitted by the end of the week. J. Hayes said that Commissioners need to let it be known what information is needed in order to make their decision on adopting the Plan in November, and that the intent of this meeting is to ensure that happens.

J. Morgenstern said that the advanced manufacturing program at Lakes Region Community College (LRCC) is providing a workforce that can help meet the needs of manufacturers, and should be mentioned in the plan goals. J. Coogan will provide additional information pertaining to the LRCC program in the economic development chapter.

Dialogue ensued regarding the role that high speed internet will play in areas such as healthcare access and economic development. J. Hayes said that there are a lot of competing demands that must be considered and it will come down to priorities.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no other business, S. Bean declared the meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.