

BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
1 FENN STREET, SUITE 201, PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01201
TELEPHONE (413) 442-1521 • FAX (413) 442-1523
www.berkshireplanning.org

SHEILA IRVIN, Chair
KYLE HANLON, Vice-Chair
MARIE RAFTERY, Clerk
CHARLES P. OGDEN, Treasurer

NATHANIEL W. KARNIS, A.I.C.P.
Executive Director

MEETING NOTICE

A meeting of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
will be held on:

Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Offices
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Please Note: *In the case of inclement weather on the day of the meeting, please call BRPC (413-442-1521, ext 15) to confirm if the meeting will still be held.*

Meeting Material: All written materials for the meeting are posted on BRPC's website: www.berkshireplanning.org. Click on the calendar date for the meeting and materials available will be listed.

AGENDA

I. Opening (7:00-7:05)

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Approval of Minutes of January 15, 2015 Meeting

II. Comments from the Public (7:05—7:10)

Members of the public may offer comments regarding topics which are on the agenda or other matters which they wish to bring to the Commission's attention. Comments are limited to no more than three minutes and are to be directed to the Commission.

III. Delegates' Issues (7:10-7:15)

Delegates and Alternates may bring up any issue not on the agenda.

IV. City of North Adams Vision 2030 (7:15-7:45)

Last May, the North Adams Planning Board adopted its first community master plan in over 40 years. The plan was the result of three years of community effort with significant public input. City Planner Mackenzie Greer (a BRPC alumnus) will present the plan, giving a brief overview of the process and then focusing on the plan's major recommendations and steps the city is taking to implement it.

V. 2015 Berkshire Regional Transportation Plan – Projects Submitted & Summary of Data Collected for Plan (7:45-8:15)

Over the past several weeks, communities and other interests have been recommending transportation projects and initiatives to be considered for inclusion in the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan. BRPC staff has also been compiling data and other information to help form the recommendations for the plan. We will summarize the projects which have been recommended as well as key data.

VI. Planning Education Topic – “Community Preservation Act” (8:15-8:45)

The Community Preservation Act has been in place for a number of years, with various changes in the law made over time. Five Berkshire towns have adopted the Act and are using it. Sustainable Berkshires suggested it was an underutilized tool in the Berkshires which has potential to provide additional locally controlled resources for historic preservation, affordable housing, and conservation and recreation in our region, matched with State funds generated from every community in the Commonwealth. Senior Planner Lauren Gaherty will present an update on the Act and highlight some of the innovative uses to which the funding has been put by local governments, within and outside the Berkshires.

VII. Approval of Executive Committee Actions between January 15 and March 19, 2015 (8:45-8:50)

VIII. Executive Director’s Report (8:50-8:55)

- A. Hiring of Eammon Coughlin as temporary Planner
- B. Status of District Local Technical Assistance Funding for 2015
- C. Young Adult Population Survey
- D. Age Friendly Community Survey
- E. Citizen Planner Training Collaborative Annual Conference – Saturday, March 21st, Holy Cross, Worcester
- F. Joint Symposium: Investing in Community: Housing/Economic Development in our rural Tri-Corner – Tuesday, March 31st, Chrissy Farms, Great Barrington
- G. Mass. Association of Conservation Commissioner’s Berkshire Certificate Training Program – Saturday, April 11th
- H. Other

IX. Adjournment (8:55)

Other interested citizens and officials are invited to attend.

City and Town Clerks: Please post this notice pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 39, Section 23B

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Executive Director

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, January 15, 2015
At the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Office
1 Fenn Street, Suite 201, Pittsfield, MA 01201

I. Call to Order

A. The meeting is called to order at: 7:00 PM

Vice-Chair Kyle Hanlon reminded all per the open meeting law, BRPC records all meetings. Others may record the meeting after informing the chair. Any documents presented must be left with the chair at the meeting.

B. Introductions/Roll Call

The following Commission members are present:

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Mark Holmes – Egremont Delegate
Malcom Fick – Gt. Barrington Delegate
Jack Hickey – Lanesborough Alternate
Mark Smith – Lenox Delegate
Wayne Burkhart – Monterey Alternate
Robert Bott – Mount Washington Delegate
James Lovejoy – Mount Washington Alternate
James Mullen – New Marlborough Delegate
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
CJ Hoss – Pittsfield Alternate
Marie Massini-Reynolds – Sheffield Delegate
Rene Wood – Sheffield Alternate
Marie Raftery – Stockbridge Alternate
Sarah Hudson – Tyringham Alternate
Marilyn Wiley – Washington Delegate
Roger Bolton – Williamstown Alternate

Staff Present:

Nat Karns – Executive Director
Marianne Sniezek - Office Manager
Brian Domina – Senior Planner
Melissa Provencher – Senior Planner
Doug Plachcinski – Senior Transportation Planner
Clete Kus – Transportation Manager

Others Present:

Andy McKeever – iBerkshire reporter

C. Approval of Minutes of Commission Committee Meeting of November 20, 2014 Meeting

Rene Wood moved to approve. Unanimously approved with 1 abstention.

II. **Public Comments** - none

III. **Delegates' Issues** - none

IV. **Planning Education Topic – “Inclusionary Zoning”**

Brian Domina, Senior Planner, explained some of the tools and policy considerations regarding Inclusionary Zoning to try and increase affordable housing needs in communities.

What is Inclusionary Zoning?

Inclusionary zoning is a local zoning ordinance which either encourages or mandates developers of market rate housing projects to include a specified percentage of housing that is affordable to lower and/or moderate income households.

Two Types of Inclusionary Zoning

Incentive Based (used in Pittsfield, Great Barrington and Lee)

An incentive based inclusionary zoning bylaw typically provides a developer with incentives in return for the construction of a certain percentage of affordable housing units as part of a market rate housing development.

(e.g. for each affordable unit constructed an additional 2 market rate units may be constructed beyond that otherwise allowed)

Mandatory (only used in Williamstown)

A mandatory inclusionary zoning bylaw typically requires that a developer construct a certain percentage of affordable housing units (~ 10%) as part of a market rate housing development.

Takeaways

Adopting a successful inclusionary zoning bylaw takes a lot of work and planning – if it doesn't work for developers in the existing market conditions it won't be used and you won't have created any more affordable units.

Incentive based inclusionary zoning bylaws are on a more solid legal footing than mandatory inclusionary zoning bylaws.

Make sure the incentives are appropriate for your community and not detrimental to it.

Consider a hardship waiver for developers to lessen the economic impact of the regulations. Is it better to have 5% affordable units where 10% is required where 10% makes the project infeasible?

Don't be afraid of the legal uncertainty. Consult with legal counsel prior to adopting a mandatory inclusionary zoning bylaw. (*You can do it unless the court says you can't*)

Be careful with fees in-lieu-of and dedication of land in-lieu-of – it must be used only for affordable housing purposes – or it becomes an unconstitutional exaction.

Implementing an inclusionary zoning bylaw takes time and resources and would be difficult for communities without dedicated volunteers or paid staff.

The Inclusionary Zoning presentation can be found on BRPC's website: <http://www.berkshireplanning.org/events/announcements/inclusionary-zoning-presentation/>

V. **Consideration of Comments to EPA on Proposed Stormwater Regulations**

As Senior Planner Melissa Provencher presented at the November Commission meeting, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released draft municipal stormwater regulations. Comments are due on the draft regulations in February. Some Berkshire municipalities (Pittsfield and Dalton in particular and parts of Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Lenox, and Richmond) were covered by the existing regulations. The new regulations are more extensive. The changes for our communities will be extensive both in time

and money. Melissa explained the final permit will be issued in about a year and will go into effect six months after it is published in the Federal Register. We have developed comments on the draft regulations for the Commission's consideration.

Rene commented she thought the letter was well written and suggested a comment be added to streamline the approach to the permitting process and a copy of the letter be sent to the Massachusetts Municipal Management Association (MMMA).

Jamie Mullen moved to approve the draft comments presented with the added comment and a carbon copy to MMMA; seconded by Marie Raftery. Unanimously approved.

VI. 2015 Berkshire Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Goals & Objectives

Senior Planner Doug Plachcinski handed out business cards with the survey code that can be scanned on your smart phone or use the website address to access Survey Monkey. Doug urged all who have not completed the survey to please do so and forward the survey to others. Doug stressed public input is key to the RRP.

Doug explained the proposed Goals and Objectives in the meeting. Materials have been updated with a few new goals and objectives. One new objective is reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The most important reason for the RTP is to ensure the region receives federal transportation funding. Seasonal traffic is very important to Berkshire County's funding needs..

Doug was asked to explain the imbalance of funds that comes into Berkshire County for roads, bridges and transit verses our needs.

- The Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) is a 4 year document that is approximately \$6 million dollars in discretionary money. The MPO decides annually how to spend the money.
- Chapter 90 money for Berkshire County is \$11.6 million out of \$300 million statewide.
- Conclusion - Not enough money
- Nat added that \$.60 on the dollar goes to pay past debt.

Bob Bott suggested:

1. A pie chart of total dollars available for the state and what percentage is for Berkshire County.
2. Another pie chart showing the total dollars needed and the percentage what is needed in Berkshire County.

The gas tax referendum has not been addressed on how this will affect the RTP funding. Nat explained in November, the ballot referendum repealed that the gas tax to be indexed to inflation. The State's capital plan used the expected increases in revenues from the previous gas tax. The repeal has cut those increases.

Doug explained the unknown requirements in the RTP are new performance measures and targets. The federal law has required the state to set up performance measures and targets, but the state will not have them ready until the RTP is ready for adoption. There are 9 or 10 categories for performance measures and targets.

Input into the RTP:

1. Traffic Congestion
2. Road/Bridge Conditions and Other Infrastructure
Drainage is the biggest issue with road conditions.
3. Safety and Accident Prevention
Massachusetts is the second safest state related to fatal crashes.
Unless more is done on distracted and impaired driving it will be difficult for Massachusetts to improve. Money is given to improve physical intersections where crashes happen.

Jack Hickey suggested a comment be added to the RTP about reducing distraction and impairments. Also the state should reorganize their priorities to allow us to spend the money where we see it best spent to improve safety.

4. Provision of Public Transit Service
5. Provision for Transport of Goods and Services
6. Land Use/Transportation Linkages

7. Climate Change and its Impact on Infrastructure
8. Survey Results – (Potholes, Bicycle Facilities, Sidewalks, Transit Services Frequency, Outdoor activity for exercise, Lack of access to vehicles, congestion and snow removal are generally not problems).

Doug concluded his presentation with the timeline for the Regional Transportation Plan.

- March 5, 2015 Commission Meeting - The Commission will vote on the Draft Berkshire Regional Transportation Plan in order to maintain funding for the region.
- June 2015 – The State will need to approve the plan.

VII. Consideration of Community Assessments for FY 2016

Kyle explained the Finance Committee has proposed a 2.5% increase in community assessments for FY 2016. By law, the municipalities must be notified of their assessments no later than February each year so that they may be included in city/town budgets.

Jack Hickey moved to approve the 2.5% increase in community assessments for FY2016; seconded by Rene Wood. Unanimously approved

VIII. Approval of Executive Committee Actions between November 11, 2014 and January 15, 2015

Jamie Mullen moved to approve all Executive Committee Actions between November 11th and January 15th 2015; seconded by Rene Wood. Unanimously approved.

IX. Sustainable Berkshires Implementation Activities & Priorities

Nat explained there were about 800 action items proposed in the Sustainable Berkshires Plan. Handed out at tonight's meeting is a chart of suggested activities and current activities or projects working on. Some examples are the Berkshire United Way and Child care of the Berkshires are working on Pre K programs for north County. The Keep Farming Group has taken ownership of the Food & Agriculture element of Sustainable Berkshires.

Priorities

1. Mitigation & Adaptation to Changing Demographics

- a) Things to help Berkshires attract younger demographic
 - Jobs – more opportunities
 - Non-car reliant transportation
 - Places with a “vibe” & places for socialization
 - Walkable communities, fairly dense
 - Telecommunication – both broadband and wireless (cell)
 - Easy to become “engaged” in the community
- b) Adjust to meet aging population's needs
Requires:
 - Transportation
 - Health care and other services
 - Housing support
 - Community/family support systems
 - Enhance socialization/involvement activities

2. Fiscal Sustainability

- Sharing of resources by municipalities
- Adjust the education system to deal with “right sizing”
- Fight for reconsideration of state aid systems – municipal, roads, transit, schools, etc.
- Enforce “no new mandates without funding to support” – state & federal

3. Economy

- Make sure we are meeting the needs of local employers who succeed – not one site in the region to offer a manufacturer who needs to expand to 150,000 sq. ft. or greater
 - Address cost of electricity
 - Jobs – Job skill mismatch – lack of coherent and flexible technical education system & poor marketing to the community
 - Increase awareness of and market the availability of world-class broadband across the region, even without the “last mile” being addressed yet
- a) Redevelopment of vacant or underutilized sites & buildings
- Requires changes in state regulations
 - Requires significant increases in funding
 - Requires significant development expertise and financing
 - Requires a stronger market, particularly for retail in downtowns and for housing in northern half of the region
- b) Continue to push on major longer timeframe but critical needs:
- Last mile broadband – un-served and supposedly “served” communities
 - Transit service to adequate levels – are we willing to tax ourselves to accomplish this?
 - Passenger rail – east-west/north-south

X. Executive Director’s Report

A. Status of District Local Technical Assistance Funding for 2015

We have received ½ of the advance money and the remaining ½ of the amount is slated for disbursement in April. The projects will be announced shortly. At this time the projects that BRPC has continued are the support of the Rest of the River Committee, the Gas Pipeline Group and the problem with Aging Population will be worked on.

B. BRPC 5th Thursday Planning & Zoning Board Dinner – January 29th, Pittsfield Country Club

Kyle pointed out the 5th Thursday event at the end of the month.

C. Massachusetts Recreational Trails Grant Round – deadline for submissions is February 2, 2015

D. Mass. Assoc. of Conservation Commissions Annual Conference Session on Pipelines & Local Wetlands Permitting – Saturday, February 28th, Holy Cross, Worcester

E. Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation Spring Forum on Rural Economic Growth and Housing – March 31st

F. Other - none

X. Adjournment

Jamie Mullen made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Bob Bott. Unanimously approved. Adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Materials distributed or presented during this meeting:

Meeting Agenda

Draft Meeting Minutes

Approval of Executive Committee Actions Memo

Executive Director’s Report

5th Thursday Dinner Announcement & Registration Form

Request for Applications for FY 2015 Recreational Trails Grants from DCR

MACC Annual Environmental Conference Announcement

BTCF Spring Forum on Rural Economic Growth and Housing Save the Date Announcement

Kinder Morgan Open House and Locations

APA Inclusionary Zoning Solutions May 14, 2014

Burlington, MA Special Residential Regulations

Inclusionary Zoning and the Constitution by Jerold Kayden

Smart Growth / Smart Energy Toolkit Bylaw-Inclusionary Zoning Bylaw

Inclusionary Zoning powerpoint presentation

Sustainable Berkshires Implementation Activities & Priorities

2015 Berk Reg Transportation Plan Goals & Objectives powerpoint

BRPC 2016 RTP Survey Business Cards



THE BERKSHIRE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

For the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization

MEMORANDUM

TO: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

BY: Douglas Plachcinski, Transportation Planner

DATE: March 5, 2015

RE: AN UPDATE ON THE 2016 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP)

The 2016 RTP is moving forward with the anticipation of a Draft Plan by the end of March. Thank you for all of the thoughtful and constructive comments we received regarding the RTP's Goals and Objectives. They were carefully integrated into the appropriate statements in the opening section of the RTP. Also, our regional transportation survey will close at the end of March. We currently have 84 responses, but there are a couple of significant outreach opportunities where we hope to generate additional interest in completing the survey, so we are leaving it open through month's end.

The next two significant steps in the RTP development process are soliciting Berkshire communities and stakeholders for potential transportation projects and issues that necessitate additional analysis. We coordinated this request for input from the communities with the annual project solicitation request for Transportation Improvement Program. Ultimately, the RTP will have a very long list of infrastructure improvements that result from these requests for projects, past BRPC studies, and staff's own analysis. The vast majority of these projects are not fiscally reasonable given our anticipated share of Federal revenue, but we include them in the RTP to illustrate the unmet needs in the Berkshires. BRPC anticipates that MassDOT will provide the Federal revenue estimates by the end of March. We will share the ideas communities and other stakeholders provided us at the Commission meeting.

The other significant step in the RTP process is the ongoing analysis of existing conditions, demographics and integration of the Regional Sustainability Plan goals/strategies. We will share some significant statements from our analysis and project ideas at the Commission meeting. An example of how the Sustainability Plan can be supported by projects in the RTP is the concept of Priority Development Areas (PDAs). These PDA's are regionally significant opportunities for new and repositioned industrial developments. Staff will be focusing on these areas and creating transportation project concepts that can enhance PDA's to compliment the Berkshire's industrial base and spur economic development.

If you have ideas or suggestions on specific transportation projects or concepts that need further study, please let me know! Don't worry about repetition with communities or other stakeholders, the more ideas we have, the more comprehensive the RTP becomes! I would like all comments by March 31. dplachcinski@berkshireplanning.org.

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Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Delegates and Alternates, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
FROM: Nathaniel W. Karns, AICP, Executive Director
DATE: March 6, 2015
SUBJ: Approval of Executive Committee Actions

In accordance with the bylaws, all actions taken by the Executive Committee on the Commission's behalf must be endorsed at the next Commission meeting.

The Executive Committee took the following actions at its March 5, 2015 meeting:

- **Approved the Executive Director on behalf of the Commission to Submit a Grant Application for a EPA/DEP for a Section 604b Water Quality Assessment project**

Approval was requested for the Executive Director to submit a grant application to the EPA/DEP Section 604b Water Quality Assessment Program and to sign any resulting contracts and agreements. There are a couple of possible projects under consideration and we will be prepared to discuss which we will pursue at the Executive Committee meeting. No BRPC match is required.

- **Approved the Executive Director on behalf of the Commission to Submit a Grant Application Approval to Submit Grant Application to EPA for Recapitalization of Berkshire Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund**

Approval was requested for the Executive Director to submit a grant application to EPA for recapitalization of the Berkshire Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund and to sign any resulting contracts and agreements. As of this week, the existing revolving loan funds available to clean-up brownfields sites in the region have been entirely committed, with known needs for additional funding which is essential for notable projects across the region. The Old Stone Mill in Adams is utilizing the last available hazardous funds as well as a considerable portion of the remaining petroleum clean-up funds, with the very initial phase of clean-up of the Greylock/Cariddi Mill in North Adams utilizing the remaining petroleum funds. Old Stone Mill needs additional hazardous funds as do New England Log Homes in Great Barrington and the Eagle Mill in Lee. Greylock/Cariddi Mill will need both petroleum and hazardous funds in the future. There are other projects which also would like to utilize these clean-up funds. No BRPC match is required. We will apply for the maximum amount allowed, with some emphasis on hazardous funds as those are most needed across the region.

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NATHANIEL W. KARNS, A.I.C.P.
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
FROM: Nathaniel W. Karns, AICP, Executive Director
DATE: March 5, 2015
SUBJ: Executive Director's Report

Various items warrant mention:

A. Hiring of Eammon Coughlin as Temporary Planner

We have hired Eammon Coughlin as a Planner in a temporary position until June 30th. Eammon is currently focused on a master and open space and recreation plan for Otis. We have several other local plans which he will also be initiating work on in the coming month or so. Eammon has a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from Cornell, a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Vermont, and almost three years of landscape design experience with several firms in and around Boston. We did not want to fill the position as a permanent one as we were concerned about the level and types of work we would have office-wide after July 1.

B. Status of District Local Technical Assistance Funding for 2015

We continue to monitor the DLTA funding situation for FY 2015, having received half of the slightly lower amount appropriated for FY 2015, with the second half payment expected early in April. For FY 2016, Governor Baker's proposed budget funds DLTA at \$2.0 million statewide, which is a reduction from the \$2.8 million in that line item from this year (a 28.6% reduction). While very pleased that it is in the Governor's budget for the very first time, we still will immediately work with our House delegation to try to make sure it stays in the House budget and to try to get the \$2.8 million restored. Any assistance Commission members or our communities can provide to inform their State Representatives of the importance of this program to their communities would be appreciated. For reference, this is budget line item 1599-0026. For further information contact Executive Director Nat Karns at nkarns@berkshireplanning.org or 442-1521, ext. 26.

C. Young Adult Population Survey

BRPC is conducting a survey of young adults (18-39) to gain a better understanding of why they live in the Berkshires and why they may leave. The survey will be conducted through the end of March and can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BerkshireYoungAdults>. Your assistance is sought in helping to distribute the survey to anyone you know who is between 18

and 39 and has lived in the Berkshires at some point in their life. A copy of the invitation to participate in and distribute the survey that was sent out is attached. Developing the survey was a collaborative effort that started with a similar effort done by various Vermont colleges and universities and then was refined working with 1Berkshires and a professor at UMass. In the past two weeks, over 3,700 responses have been received. We would like a higher degree of responses from those with less education (those with college and graduate degrees are over-represented in the responses thus far). For further information or to offer assistance or suggestions on making further contacts, contact GIS, Data & Information Manager Mark Maloy (mmaloy@berkshireplanning.org or 442-1521, ext. 29).

D. Age Friendly Community Survey

BRPC, in conjunction with a range of partners, has launched another survey early in March on "Age Friendly Communities". The flyer announcing the survey is attached and the survey can be found at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BerkshireAgeFriendly>. One of the overarching themes in *Sustainable Berkshires* is the need to prepare for the significant increase in the number and proportion of the population that will be elderly in the coming several decades. This survey is intended to better inform a variety of decision-makers about what is needed to help older adults remain healthy, active, and engaged in Berkshire County for as long as possible. For further information, contact Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross (442-1521, ext. 37 or lkittross@berkshireplanning.org).

E. Citizen Planner Training Collaborative Annual Conference – Saturday, March 21, Holy Cross, Worcester

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative will be holding its annual day-long conference at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester on Saturday, March 21st. The CPTC 2015 Annual Conference has some exciting new sessions on current planning issues in Massachusetts as well as core sessions for newer Planning Board and Board of Appeals members. Every session offers AICP credits, MIIA credits or CPTC Certificate credits. Some of the topics covered: The RFP/RFQ Process, Climate Adaptation, Design Review, Gas Pipelines, Coordinating Permit Review, Mapping Your Community with Simple Tools, and more. A copy of the conference program is attached and the program and registration material is available online at www.masscptc.org.

F. Joint Symposium: Investing in Community: Housing/Economic Development in our rural Tri-Corner – Tuesday, March 31st, Chrissy Farms, Great Barrington

Attached is the announcement and registration information for the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Spring Forum on Housing Strategies for Economic Development in the Tri-Corner Region. Information is available on both BTCF's and BRPC's websites.

G. Mass. Association of Conservation Commissioner's Berkshire Certificate Training Program – Saturday, April 11th

As was done last year, BRPC and MACC, thanks to funding provided by the Berkshire Environmental Endowment at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, are offering two units of MACC's Certificate Training Program, Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners, for free here in the Berkshires. The announcement flyer is attached. For further information contact Senior Planner Lauren Gaherty at lgaherty@berkshireplanning.org or 442-1521, ext 35.

Attachments (4):
Berkshire Young Adults Survey
Age Friendly Community Survey
Investing in Community: Housing Strategies for Economic Development in the Tri-Corner Region
Free MACC Fundamental Units for Berkshire County Conservation Commissions



Berkshire Young Adult Survey

As you may be aware, the Berkshires have been losing population for several decades and are projected to continue to lose population into the foreseeable future.

Over the last two decades, the majority of this loss has been among young adults. This link (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BerkshireYoungAdults>) will bring you to a survey that is designed to gain a better understanding of the various reasons why young adults (18-39) live in the Berkshires as well as why they may have moved away.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and to email, share, tweet this survey to anyone you know who has lived in the Berkshires at some point during their life and is between 18 and 39!

The survey should take about 5 minutes to complete.

We will be collecting responses until March 31, 2015.



This survey was created by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.



Age Friendly Community Survey

Are you over age 50 and living in Berkshire County?
We want your opinion!

An **Age-Friendly Community** is a way to help older adults remain healthy, active, and engaged in their community for as long as possible. The results of this Age-Friendly survey will help inform planning efforts to make Berkshire County a better place for older adults and all Berkshire residents.

Berkshire County is aging faster than most of Massachusetts and our nation. Nearly 30,000 baby boomers will retire in Berkshire County over the next 10-20 years. This change in our population requires that we all rethink what it means to get older here in the Berkshires, and that we begin to take steps to prepare for this change across every sector of community life.

Pick up a copy of the anonymous survey at your local Council on Aging, library, or town hall. Or go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/BerkshireAgeFriendly to take the survey on line. Or use the QR code below to go to directly to the on line survey. Your answers will help us to begin planning and prioritizing local efforts to address the growing needs and desires of older adults. It should take about 15 minutes. Please ask your spouse, friends and neighbors to complete a separate survey, as **every opinion matters.**



Adams, Great Barrington, Pittsfield and Williamstown
Councils on Aging





Tuesday,
March 31st,
at Chrissey Farm
in Great Barrington

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY:

Housing Strategies for Economic Development in the Tri-Corner Region

EXPLORE the regional economic impact of housing access in the **Tri-Corner** region of Southern Berkshire County, MA, Litchfield County CT, and northeast Dutchess County, NY through three key elements:

- THE ECONOMIC IMPACT of the gap between the cost of housing and average wages;
- SMART HOUSING SOLUTIONS that work for our communities and the
- IMPACT OF TARGETED COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS—investing in your community to strengthen your business



9:00am–
2:30pm,
Breakfast &
Lunch
Included
\$35
Register
Through
eventbrite.com
(search: “investing
in community”)

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Berkshire Taconic
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



SAVE THE DATE: SAT., APRIL 11, 2015

FREE MACC FUNDAMENTAL UNITS FOR BERKSHIRE COUNTY CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS

Fundamental Units Offered

- **Unit 1 – Overview of Conservation Commissions** (9:00 am – 11:30 am)
 - Duties and responsibilities
 - Conflict of Interest Law, Open Meeting Law
 - Towns budget, filing and consultant fees

- **Unit 2 – How to Run an Effective Meeting** (12:00 pm – 3:00 pm)
 - Meeting preparation
 - Participants and their interests
 - Group dynamics
 - Record keeping, Public Records Law
 - Communications techniques

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) and the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) are teaming up once again to offer two units of MACC's Certificate Training Program, *Fundamentals for Conservation Commissioners*, for free here in the Berkshires. Take one class or take both. The Mass. Open Meeting Law, which has been in the news lately, will be discussed in both sessions. Registration is expected to be open the first week of March.

We are hoping that combining our offerings with those offered by MACC at their annual conferences in Worcester helps Commissioners move closer to completing MACC's certificate program.

It is through the generosity of the Berkshire Environmental Endowment Fund, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, that these trainings can be offered at no charge to our Berkshire County communities. Lunch is included between workshop units.

For more information about this training series, visit
http://www.maccweb.org/edu_ct_fundamentals.html