



FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2022

This was a virtual meeting as allowed by Ch. 22 of the Acts of 2022 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30 sec.20.

I. Opening

A. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

Chair John Duval stated that per the open meeting law, BRPC records all meetings. Others may record the meeting after informing the chair. Any documents presented must be provided to the chair at the meeting. Pittsfield TV was recording.

B. Roll Call

The following Commission members were present:

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Mary McGurn – Egremont Alternate
Pedro Pachano – Great Barrington Delegate
Malcolm Fick – Great Barrington Alternate
Buck Donovan – Lee Delegate
Laura Mensi – Monterey Delegate
Jim Lovejoy – Mt. Washington
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
Christine Rasmussen – Stockbridge Alternate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Roger Bolton – Williamstown Alternate
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

Staff Present:

Thomas Matuszko – Executive Director
Marianne Sniezek – Administration Program Manager
Kate Hill Tapia – Office Administrator
Anuja Koirala – Principal Transportation Planner
Clete Kus – Transportation Program Manager
Emma Doane – Community Planning Intern

Others Present:

Brittany Polito, iBerkshire; Pittsfield Community Television; Justine Dodds, City of Pittsfield Community Development Office; Eileen

Peltier, Berkshire Housing Development Corporation; Bob Malnati, Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

C. Approval of Minutes of March 17, 2022, Meeting

Roger Bolton moved to approve the draft minutes of the March 17, 2022 meeting. Kyle Hanlon seconded the motion. A correction: Sarah Hudson is Tyringham's Alternate, not Delegate. The minutes were approved with a roll call vote and one abstention.

Yes:

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Mary McGurn – Egremont Alternate
Buck Donovan – Lee Delegate
Laura Mensi – Monterey Delegate
Jim Lovejoy – Mt. Washington
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
Christine Rasmussen – Stockbridge Alternate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Roger Bolton – Williamstown Alternate
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

Abstained:

Pedro Pachano – Great Barrington Delegate

II. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

III. Delegate & Alternate Issues

Roger Bolton reported that the Environmental Review Committee did not see a need to submit a comment letter about the ENF for a bridge in Sheffield.

IV. Executive Committee Actions

There were no questions or comments on Executive Committee actions at the April 7 and May 12, 2022 meetings.

V. Proposed Transportation Improvement Program for FFY 2023-2027

The updated Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Berkshires was reviewed. It reestablishes which projects will receive the limited federal transportation funds. Anuja noted two new funding categories: the carbon reduction program (CRP) and PROTECT (Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost Saving Transportation). The Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will vote on its adoption on May 24, 2022. Chair John Duval represents BRPC.

Jim Lovejoy moved to instruct the BRPC Chair to vote to approve the proposed Transportation Improvement Plan for FFY 2023-2027 at the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting on May 24, 2022. The motion was seconded by Sheila Irvin and approved by a roll call vote.

Yes:

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Mary McGurn – Egremont Alternate
Pedro Pachano – Great Barrington Delegate
Buck Donovan – Lee Delegate
Laura Mensi – Monterey Delegate
Jim Lovejoy – Mt. Washington Alternate
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
Christine Rasmussen – Stockbridge Alternate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Roger Bolton – Williamstown Alternate
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

VI. Proposed Transportation Unified Planning Work Program for FFY 2023

The proposed Unified Planning Work Program for FFY 2023, establishing BRPC staff's transportation planning work for the coming year, was presented. It will go to the Metropolitan Planning Organization for approval on May 24, 2022.

Jim Lovejoy moved to instruct the BRPC Chair to vote in favor of the proposed Unified Planning Work Program for FFY 2023 at the MPO meeting on May 24, 2022. The motion was seconded by Kyle Hanlon and approved by a roll call vote.

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Mary McGurn – Egremont Alternate
Pedro Pachano – Great Barrington Delegate
Buck Donovan – Lee Delegate
Laura Mensi – Monterey Delegate
Jim Lovejoy – Mt. Washington Alternate
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
Christine Rasmussen – Stockbridge Alternate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Roger Bolton – Williamstown Alternate
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

VII. Presentation by Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

BRTA Administrator Bob Malnati reviewed approved service changes and the reasoning behind them.

VIII. Presentation by Berkshire Housing Development Corporation

BHDC CEO/President Eileen Peltier discussed the corporation's work and how it might assist communities with housing development projects.

IX. Adoption of the BRPC FY 2023 Budget

Per the BRPC bylaws, the Commission reviewed and voted to adopt the annual budget for the fiscal year 2023 as recommended by the Finance Committee. Tom recognized Marianne for her work preparing the budget.

The motion was made by Roger Bolton, seconded by Douglas McNally, and approved by a roll call vote:

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Mary McGurn – Egremont Alternate
Pedro Pachano – Great Barrington Delegate
Buck Donovan – Lee Delegate
Laura Mensi – Monterey Delegate
Jim Lovejoy – Mt. Washington Alternate
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
Christine Rasmussen – Stockbridge Alternate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Roger Bolton – Williamstown Alternate
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

X. Report of the BRPC Nominating Committee – Officers for FY 2023

The Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of officers for FY 2023. It will be voted on at the first BRPC Full Commission meeting after July 1.

John Duval, Chair
Malcolm Fick, Vice-Chair
Sheila Irvin, Clerk
Buck Donovan, Treasurer

XI. Executive Director's Report

A. EPA Brownfields Award

BRPC received two EPA Brownfields awards. One for \$500,000 to continue assessment work. The second for \$2,500,000 re-capitalizes the Revolving Loan Funds. Tom recognized the good work that Energy and Environment Program Manager Melissa Provencher has done leading the Brownfields Program.

B. Grant Workshop Series

In collaboration with the Western Mass Legislative Delegation, the three Western Mass regional Planning agencies have convened a series of grant workshops. Three have occurred. The next one is Tuesday, May 24, 3:00 – 5:00, featuring the Mass Historical Commission, Mass Cultural Council, and the Division of Local Services. Representatives will explain their grant programs and offerings. Register once for any/all sessions at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtd--spzoqHtW1GeGR6z0iyrmhqzIQCNSO>. Session recordings can be found at Grant Information - Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (berkshireplanning.org).

C. Berkshire Benchmarks

BRPC's Berkshire Benchmarks program maintains a website with extensive regional data. It now includes indicators tracking how Berkshire County is changing. Berkshire Benchmarks has prepared a State of the County Report in collaboration with the Berkshire Leadership Impact Council. An inaugural release of the report will take place on May 23, 2022, 9:00 am – 11:00 am at the Berkshire Innovation Center. Register at <https://bit.ly/Benchmarks22>

D. Office Space

Improvements to the BRPC office are almost complete, and staff has been moved. It has taken a year. Tom appreciated the efforts of Administration Program Manager Marianne Sniezek for her good and persistent work.

E. Other - none

XII. Adjournment

Pedro Pachano made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kyle Hanlon, and unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.