



FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES July 14, 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 5:32 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.

B. Roll Call

The following Commission members were present:

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Malcolm Fick – Great Barrington Alternate
Barb Davis-Hassan – Lanesborough Delegate
Laura Mensi – Monterey Delegate (left 6:18 for PB mtg)
Jonathan James – New Marlborough Delegate
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sam Haupt – Peru Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
René Wood – Sheffield Alternate
Nancy Socha – Stockbridge Delegate
Christine Rasmussen – Stockbridge Alternate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Kenneth Kuttner – Williamstown 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
Meg Arvin – Public Health Planner
Mark Maloy – GIS, Data & IT Program Manager

Others Present:

Brittany Polito, iBerkshire; Pittsfield Community Television (late)

C. Approval of Minutes of May 19, 2022, Meeting

Kyle Hanlon moved to approve the May 19, 2022, draft meeting minutes. Amanda Hamilton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a roll call vote and five abstentions.

Yes:

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Malcolm Fick – Great Barrington Alternate
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

Abstained:

Barb Davis-Hassan – Lanesborough Delegate
Jonathan James – New Marlborough Delegate
Sam Haupt – Peru Delegate
Nancy Socha – Stockbridge Delegate
Kenneth Kuttner – Williamstown Delegate

II. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

III. Delegate & Alternate Issues - None

IV. Executive Committee Actions

There were no questions about the Executive Committee's actions at the June 2, 2022 meeting.

V. Election of BRPC Officers for FY 2023

The Nominating Committee proposed the following slate of officers for FY 2023:

- Chair: John Duval, Adams Alternate
- Vice Chair: Malcolm Fick, Great Barrington Alternate
- Clerk: Sheila Irvin, Pittsfield Delegate
- Treasurer: Buck Donovan, Lee Delegate

The Chair called for nominations from the floor. There were none. Sam Haupt moved to close nominations, and Kyle Hanlon seconded.

Douglas McNally made a motion to approve the slate of officers as proposed, seconded by Nancy Socha, and approved by a roll call vote:

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Malcolm Fick – Great Barrington Alternate
Barb Davis-Hassan – Lanesborough Delegate

Jonathan James – New Marlborough Delegate
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sam Haupt – Peru Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
Nancy Socha – Stockbridge Delegate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Kenneth Kuttner – Williamstown Delegate
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

The Chair thanked everyone who serves as an officer and committee member, appreciating their work and time commitment.

VI. Endorsement of Committee Chairs and At-Large Executive Committee Member Appointment for FY 2023

Tom explained the standing committees and that the BRPC bylaws require the Commission to approve the Committee Chairs as recommended by the BRPC Chair.

- Environmental Review Committee – Roger Bolton, Williamstown
- Commission Development Committee – Rene Wood, Sheffield
- Regional Issues Committee – CJ Hoss, Pittsfield
- Berkshire Brownfields Committee – Sheila Irvin, Pittsfield
- Berkshire Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee – Kyle Hanlon, North Adams

The BRPC bylaws require the Commission to approve At-Large Executive Committee members as recommended by the BRPC Chair.

- Kyle Hanlon, At-Large, North Adams
- Sam Haupt, At-Large, Peru (Knowledgeable about transportation issues)

Douglas McNally moved to approve the listed Committee Chairs and At-Large members, Barb Davis-Hassan seconded, and a roll call vote approved it.

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Malcolm Fick – Great Barrington Alternate
Barb Davis-Hassan – Lanesborough Delegate
Laura Mensi – Monterey Delegate
Jonathan James – New Marlborough Delegate
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sam Haupt – Peru Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
Nancy Socha – Stockbridge Delegate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Kenneth Kuttner – Williamstown Delegate
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

VII. Ratification of Commission Representatives to Related Groups

The BRPC's Bylaws require the Commission to ratify appointments to special or standing bodies, not under that jurisdiction of the BRPC.

The BRPC Chair is the representative to the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization. Two alternates are recommended for ratification:

Alternate: Sam Haupt, Peru; Alternate 2: Kyle Hanlon, North Adams

Douglas McNally moved to ratify the proposed Alternates to the Berkshire Metropolitan Planning Organization. It was seconded by Sheila Irvin and approved by a roll call vote:

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Malcolm Fick – Great Barrington Alternate
Barb Davis-Hassan – Lanesborough Delegate
Laura Mensi – Monterey Delegate
Jonathan James – New Marlborough Delegate
Kyle Hanlon – North Adams Delegate
Sam Haupt – Peru Delegate
Sheila Irvin – Pittsfield Delegate
Sari Hoy – Sheffield Delegate
Nancy Socha – Stockbridge Delegate
Amanda Hamilton – Tyringham Delegate
Kenneth Kuttner – Williamstown Delegate
Doug McNally – Windsor Delegate

Marie Raftery (Stockbridge Non-Commission member), Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee representative, has not been available to confirm her willingness to continue. If she is not interested, Douglas McNally volunteered for the role.

The Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Board representative role is available as Kyle Hanlon prefers to step down. He will continue if no one else is interested.

VIII. Authorization for Executive Committee to Act on Behalf of the Commission

Delegates were asked to complete the poll in the packet via email, SurveyMonkey, or mail to authorize the Executive Committee to act in the name of and on behalf of the Commission. Twenty-two affirmative votes are needed.

IX. Recruitment to BRPC Committees

Tom reviewed the roles of the standing and special committees of the Commission inviting Delegates and Alternates to participate. Contact him if you want to participate.

X. Kusik Award Nominations

The Kusik Award recognizes projects, groups, or individuals who have made outstanding contributions to planning in Berkshire County. Please consider submitting a nomination by August 4. The form was in the meeting materials and is on the website. Awardee(s) are announced at the September Annual Meeting.

XI. Berkshire Benchmarks and Indicators

The BRPC GIS, Data and IT Manager, Mark Maloy, presented the revamped Berkshire Benchmarks data webpage and newly identified indicators. Early childhood education data requires action. Mark encourages municipal officials to use this wealth of data for grant applications, etc. It will be shared with the Select Board Association. <https://berkshirebenchmarks.org/> Commission members appreciated Mark's work.

XII. Executive Director's Report

D. Berkshire Flyer

The Berkshire Flyer Service between New York City and Pittsfield via Albany-Rensselaer, NY, had a successful beginning Friday, July 8.

E. Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study

The Northern Tier Passenger Rail Working Group met on June 22, 2022. The main topic was existing conditions in the study area. There was a virtual public information meeting Thursday, July 14, at 6:00 pm to review the study's background and existing conditions analysis and garner feedback on issues and opportunities along the corridor, Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study - Public Information Meeting #1 | Mass.gov. For more information about and to submit a comment or question, go to <https://www.mass.gov/northern-tier-passenger-rail-study>.

F. Open Meeting Law

The status of the provision to allow public meetings to be held virtually past July 15, 2022, is still very much unknown. The Senate voted to allow virtual meetings until December 15, 2023. The House voted to extend until March of 2023. The two laws may go to a conference committee and then be voted on by both branches. It is likely that public meetings will need to be held in person starting July 16. Members agreed to continue virtual meetings if possible.

G. DLTA Funding

DLTA funding for FY23 is in the House budget but not in the Senate version. If there is to be a DLTA program starting Calendar year 2023, it will need to be added to the final budget. The Conference Committee members have not released their budget version, so the status is unknown.

H. Draft Regulations on Stretch Energy Building Code

The Department of Energy Resources filed changes to the state building code to encourage builders to shift away from fossil fuel heating in favor of

electrification. This would create a new net-zero specialized stretch code for cities and towns to adopt. A public comment period on the latest draft is open until 5 pm on August 12. Comments can be emailed to stretchcode@mass.gov with the words "BUILDING CODE COMMENTS" in the subject line or mailed to Ian Finlayson, Department of Energy Resources, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 1020, Boston, MA 02114. The new code language will also be subject to three public hearings:

- July 22, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife headquarters, Westborough
- August 2, Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy
- August 8, virtual platform:
[Stretch Energy Code Development 2022 | Mass.gov](#)

I. Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030

The Baker Administration released the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030 as required by the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 and the 2021 Climate Law (An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy). The Plan prioritizes actions to close the gap between current and future emissions targets. These initiatives include the implementation of the California vehicle emissions standards to advance the electrification of cars and trucks; increasing electric vehicle charging infrastructure while expanding investments in the public transportation system; pursuing recommendations from the Commission on Clean Heat to transform how homes and businesses are heated; doubling the state's efforts to conserve natural and working lands; and significantly expanding tree planting, especially in environmental justice neighborhoods. Additionally, the Plan aligns with the Baker-Polito Administration's efforts to foster, support, and invest in the clean energy industry, anchored by offshore wind generation. [download \(mass.gov\)](#)

J. Special Commission on Rural Education Report

This report has been released. BRPC will share it.

XIII. Adjournment

Barb Davis-Hassan made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Nancy Socha, and approved by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

John Duval – Adams Alternate
Peter Traub – Cheshire Delegate
Barb Davis-Hassan – Lanesborough Delegate
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