



BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

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**Berkshire County
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee
Agenda
May 17, 2023 | 1:00 PM**

This will be a virtual (or hybrid) meeting as allowed by Ch. 2 of the Acts of 2023 extending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30 sec.20 until March 31, 2025.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88167737360?pwd=T3I2TVZ3azlkHhLMTZPakR6MGp6dz09>

Meeting ID: 881 6773 7360

Passcode: 122363

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,88167737360#,,,,*122363# US (New York)

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1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes from February 15th, 2023
3. CARES Act Grant Extension
4. Berkshire Funding Focus – update on the initiative
5. 2023-2027 Berkshire County CEDS
 - a. Public Roll-Out Update
 - i. **Landing page on BRPC website**
 - ii. **Berkshire Magazine guest article** - published
 - iii. **Press Release** - distributed
 - iv. **Public presentations** – ongoing
 - v. **Meetings with Berkshire delegation** – completed
 - vi. **NADO feature** - posted
 - b. Annual Progress Report - #1 due early 2024
 - i. **Priority Projects** – call for updates
 - ii. **Goals and Objectives** – representative activity

6. Adjournment

Next Meeting – September 13th or 20th

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

Please Note:

For information regarding postponements or cancellations on the day of a scheduled meeting, please call Berkshire Regional Planning Commission at (413) 442-1521, x5



CEDS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

February 15, 2023

Committee Members Present

George Ambriz, Berkshire Community College
Roger Bolton, Williams College (Retired)
Heather Boulger, MassHire - *alternate*
A.J. Enchill, Berkshire Black Economic Council
Keith Girouard, Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network
Kyle Hanlon, BRPC, CEDS Chair
Lesley Herzberg, Berkshire County Historical Society at Arrowhead
Laurie Mick, PERC
Mike Nuvallie, City of North Adams
Ian Rasch, Alander Construction
Chris Rembold, Town of Great Barrington
Shannon Smith, Berkshire Agricultural Ventures

Not Present

Mike Coakley, City of Pittsfield
John Duval, Town of Adams/BRPC Commission Chair
Ben Lamb, iBerkshire
Jim Lovejoy, Town of Mt. Washington
Debra Sarlin, Berkshire Community College
Ben Sosne, Berkshire Innovation Center

BRPC Staff Present

Laura Brennan, Economic Development Program Manager
Wylie Goodman, Senior Economic Development Planner

Guests Present

Sabrina Damms, iBerkshires.com
Kamaar Taliaferro, resident

I. Call to Order

Kyle H. called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. after which he conducted a roll call of CEDS Committee members in attendance. Guests were announced.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 14th, 2022

Chris R. moved to approve the December 14, 2022, minutes. George A. seconded. The minutes were approved via roll call vote. Mike N. abstained.

III. 2023-2027 Berkshire County CEDS

- a. EDA Acceptance Letter – February 2nd, 2023 - Laura B. confirmed that Debra Beavins from EDA had provided an acceptance letter for our CEDS. Kyle Hanlon noted complimentary statements made by EDA about the final report, including the expanded Resiliency Planning chapter.
- b. Public Roll-Out – Laura B. shared details about the CEDS public rollout and updates to the agenda links. The campaign will include a press release and other public-facing activities such as an article in *Berkshire Magazine* and announcements via BRPC’s website, e-newsletter, social media, and more. Laura B. shared a two-page summary of the CEDS with its consolidated focus on the CEDS vision, goals, priority projects, and resiliency. The summary also notes the importance of regional coordination to seek funding. Laura B. will also be meeting with members of the Berkshire delegation to share the document. Wylie G. shared the short video and StoryMap created to help engage the public about the CEDS. Chris R. and others suggested a more accessible term than “ArcGIS StoryMap” be used on the BRPC website. Roger B. noted that some of the video moved quickly and might be improved by slowing down the SWOT analysis section. Wylie G. will be outreaching to town leaders, such as Select Boards, to circle back on earlier engagement at the outset of the CEDS process, with a focus on resiliency. We will also reconnect with people who participated in the business survey to let them know the report is released and to thank them for their input. Prior to the public launch, a guest columnist wrote a “review” of the CEDS that appeared in the *Berkshire Business Journal* and was favorable. Wylie G. suggested that the CEDS be shared with the Williams College economics department to encourage students to do follow-up research. Roger B. suggested it also be shared with students at MCLA and BCC who are more likely to reside in the region. A.J. E. suggested sharing the report with Associated Industries of MA. Laura B. asked attendees to spread the word on their social media pages.
- c. Annual Progress Report - Laura B. reminded the group of past annual report formats, which were akin to mini-CEDS. Going forward EDA’s expectation is for annual reports to be much shorter (10-15 pages), so this should make future updates a more manageable undertaking. BRPC, however, still wants to track Priority Projects each year but will be working to make the process as efficient as possible. If people are aware of activities representative of CEDS goals, they should feel free to share those with BRPC. The first annual CEDS update will be due in early 2024.

IV. Adjournment – George A. made a motion to adjourn. Ian R. seconded the motion. Kyle H. took a roll call vote to confirm agreement on adjourning. The meeting adjourned at 1:38 pm.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 17, 2023, @ 1 pm.