



Commission Development Committee

November 16, 2023 Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom and was recorded.

Chair Doug McNally called the meeting to order at 6:21 pm.

I. Roll call:

Present:

Malcolm Fick, Great Barrington (non-voting Commission Chair)

Buck Donovan, Lee

Kyle Hanlon, North Adams

Doug McNally, Windsor

Absent:

Sarah Hudson, Tyringham

Pedro Pachano, Great Barrington

BRPC Staff: Tom Matuszko, Laura Brennan, Kate Hill Tapia

II. Introductions were not needed.

III. Approval of Minutes from April 18, 2023

Kyle Hanlon moved to approve the April 18, 2023, minutes; Buck Donovan seconded. A roll call vote approved it: Buck Donovan, Kyle Hanlon, and Doug McNally.

IV. Overview of Committee Responsibilities

The committee discussed responsibilities and how to engage Delegates and Alternates. Dough suggested emphasizing the lack of county government and, therefore, the important role of BRPC, including collaborations. Laura's new role as Assistant Director includes increasing BRPC's public relations activities and doing so more strategically. It was agreed to share the Annual Report with municipalities and follow up with visits to Select Board meetings, especially in the communities that are not active in BRPC. This could also aid in collecting information about specific community needs (buildings, vehicles, personnel) so Berkshire Funding Focus is informed. It was suggested to keep a phrase such as "to have your town participate, contact BRPC staff" on all reports and documents.

V. Discussion of potential areas of focus in FY24

This is a continuation of the previous topic. Education has been a focus of this committee. Tom asked what topics are current and whether there would be interest in fifth Thursday dinners or other events.

Doug suggested connecting Economic Development efforts to Housing and Transportation as they are interrelated. He and Sheila are Vice Chair and Chair of the Berkshire Regional Transportation Association board and have been pushing for last mile and evening services. BRTA's operation manager is open to new ideas and has

secured funding for free rides from Thanksgiving through the end of the year.

Tom requested support to ensure BRTA pursues a microtransit grant opportunity available now. BRPC staff recently met with BRTA staff and offered assistance to apply. The deadline is soon, and BRTA has not sought assistance.

BRPC and BRTA are working together to address the need for drivers. Berkshire Community College has funding for training, and BRPC is helping to find a training provider. There is a desire for on-demand door-to-door shared services. Doug offered to meet with staff from both agencies.

VI. Next meeting

It will be January 4, 2024 after the Executive Committee meeting that starts at 4:00 pm, Tentatively 5:00 pm, to be confirmed based on the EC meeting agenda.

VII. Adjournment

Kyle Hanlon moved to adjourn the meeting; Buck Donovan seconded, and it was unanimously agreed by roll call vote: Buck Donovan, Kyle Hanlon, and Doug McNally.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.