



Commission Development Committee

Minutes from December 5, 2024

This was a virtual 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.

Chair Douglas McNally called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Present:

Douglas McNally, Windsor, Committee Chair

Buck Donovan, Lee

Kyle Hanlon, North Adams

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

Pedro Pachano, Great Barrington – joined at 5:21 pm

BRPC Staff: Thomas Matuszko, Laura Brennan

II. Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2024

Kyle Hanlon made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting. Buck Donovan seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote.

III. Debrief of BRPC 2024 Annual Meeting (September 25th)

Doug asked Tom for his impressions. Tom felt that the venue was good and high attendance provided good participation. Representative Smitty Pignatelli's comments were particularly appreciated. The logistics and timing were good; rain was unfortunate. Food did arrive late but was ample and people circulated well. Doug commented that those who were interested in eating got what they needed. Doug also enjoyed the location. The format of a reception and not a seated dinner seems to be going well. Tom indicated that he does not anticipate us returning to a formal dinner format. Buck commented that the networking opportunity is appreciated.

IV. Discussion of potential topics for January 2025 5th Thursday event

The committee members noted that this would be two weeks after the January Commission Meeting, and that a broader group is invited to 5th Thursday events, such as the culvert funding and micro transit-focused events.

Buck D. suggested the topic of renewable energy and the effects of state plans on Berkshire County. Tom M. also suggested the possibility of inviting someone from the state to discuss the upcoming holistic land use plan they will be undertaking. The plan is still in preliminary stages, and this may be an opportunity for the state to hear from us about what is important for our region. There also already exist several statewide plans that are not entirely coordinated. Doug suggested a summary of statewide plans and how they impact the Berkshires would be meaningful for our

audiences. Tom will reach out to Kurt Gaertner at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs about the possibility of presenting on January 30th. Tom holds Kurt in high regard and would be eager to host him for an in-person event.

A backup plan will be something related to renewable energy approaches. The group briefly discussed challenges regarding the lack of availability of EV fast charger locations.

The group confirmed that they would like to move forward with scheduling a 5th Thursday in January. Doug expressed that these events are a good opportunity for awareness building for BRPC.

The group agreed to plan on the Mazzeo's location again, as they were pleased with the May 2024 event. Laura B. will book the venue.

V. Next meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2025 in order to prepare for nominations as well as a potential May 5th Thursday event. The March Executive Committee meeting will be on the 6th, and the CDC will plan to meet at 5 pm on the same date.

VI. Adjournment

Kyle Hanlon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Buck Donovan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

Documents and Exhibits Used:

Draft Minutes of September 12th CDC meeting