



## **APPROVED FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

### **January 15, 2026**

This was a virtual meeting as allowed by An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency extending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A sec.20 until June 30, 2027

#### **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

Chair Malcolm Fick stated that, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law: *Meetings of the BRPC Commission Committee are recorded. Others may record meetings after informing the Chair that they wish to do so, as long as the method of recording does not interfere with the conduct of the meeting.* PCTV recorded the meeting.

#### **II. Roll Call**

The following Commission members were present:

Jay Meczywor-Adams Alternate  
Al Blake- Becket Delegate  
Ann Krawet- Becket Alternate  
Peter Traub-Cheshire Delegate  
Mary McGurn-Egremont Delegate  
Malcolm Fick-Great Barrington Alternate  
Keith Harrison-Hinsdale Delegate  
Mark Hawthorne-Lanesborough Alternate  
Buck Donovan-Lee Delegate  
Mark Smith-Lenox Delegate  
Daniel Bross-Lenox Alternate  
Laura Mensi-Monterey Delegate  
Sheila Irvin-Pittsfield Delegate  
Sari Hoy-Sheffield Delegate  
Christine Rasmussen-Stockbridge Alternate  
Erik Reardon-Williamstown Delegate

Towns with no Delegate or Alternate present:

Alford, Clarksburg, Dalton, Florida, Hancock, Mt. Washington, New Ashford,  
New Marlborough, North Adams, Otis, Peru, Richmond, Sandisfield,  
Tyringham, Washington, West Stockbridge, Windsor

Staff Present:

Thomas Matuszko, Marianne Sniezek, Caitlin Davis, Laura Kittross, Clete Kus, Jaymie Zapata, Lydia Shulman

Others Present:

Corrin Meise-Munns, MILUS  
Eric Anderson, Town Manager, Dalton  
Carol Hardy Fanta, Tyringham Planning Board  
PCTV

### **III. Vote to Approve Minutes of the November 20, 2025, Commission Meeting**

Mary McGurn motioned to approve the November 20, 2025, draft meeting minutes. Buck Donovan seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion.

A roll call vote approved it: Jay Meczywor, Peter Traub, Mary McGurn, Malcolm Fick, Keith Harrison, Buck Donovan, Laura Mensi, Sheila Irvin, Sari Hoy, and Erik Reardon.

Mark Hawthorne and Mark Smith abstained. Christine Rasmussen and Al Blake did not vote.

### **IV. Comments from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Delegates and Alternate Delegates**

BRPC Delegates & Alternates were offered the opportunity to comment on any item not on the agenda. Discussion or action are referred to a future meeting and not discussed at this meeting. There were no comments from the delegates or alternates.

### **V. Comments from the Public**

Members of the public were offered the opportunity to comment regarding topics on the agenda or other matters they wish to bring to the Commission's attention. Comments are directed to the Commission. Commenters state their names and the city or town they are from. Any discussion or action is referred to a future meeting and not discussed at this meeting. There were no comments from the public.

### **VI. Presentation & Discussion about the Massachusetts Integrated Land Use Strategy (MILUS)**

In a brief presentation, Corrin Meise-Munns, Land Use Planning Manager with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA) provided an overview of the Massachusetts Integrated Land Use Strategy (MILUS), [MILUS Overview](#) including its organizational structure, overall goals, anticipated outcomes, and opportunities for participation. The presentation focused on clarifying questions and high-level observations, during which EEA noted any overarching concerns or suggestions related to the project's scope or process. As the MILUS workgroups were just getting underway, EEA would not yet have preliminary analysis or

findings to share, and this presentation was intended to be introductory rather than substantive.”

The presentation included the following highlights:

- Problems and Opportunities- Why is land use planning important?; coordinating land use planning to meet Commonwealth’s goals. Some Commonwealth plans may compete with one another
- Existing state initiatives would be incorporated starting with sub goals that each plan has implemented and build on existing tools
- MILUS has looked to other statewide land use plans , such as CT, NJ, and RI, to learn from their challenges
- Project Deliverables: Strategy and Map- preferred land uses and GIS planning tool as a guide
- Integrated consideration examples included: Environmental Justice and Equity; Transportation; Climate and Environmental Hazards; Decarbonization
- Work groups and focus groups for industry professionals
- MILUS Use cases examples included: Senior Policy makers, state agency program managers, transportation planners, municipalities and local planners, real estate developers
- Anticipated concerns and challenges, such as coordination across multiple agencies and incorporating existing agency initiatives
- Outcomes and benefits
- Project timeline- hope to wrap up by Labor Day; current timeline is in Q1

Mark Smith asked if there was a color coding standardization across the maps of the other states. If not, why? Corrin was not aware of planning coordination on this. Not sure what this will mean in the future. Different states have different laws, and this could cause issues. MILUS might not continue with a color coding model.

Tom asked where the comprehensive plans factored in for priority areas. The response was that MILUS did not prioritize showing at a parcel level. Focus would be on establishing priority areas from surveys, specifically elicited from municipal representatives. There would be questions on conservation and housing that communities have faced. RPAs were working with data teams at the municipal level.

## **VII. Vote to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Fiscal Year 2027 Assessment as Recommended by the Executive Committee at its December 4, 2025 meeting to include a 2.5% increase over Fiscal Year 2026**

By law, BRPC needs to notify municipalities of their assessments no later than February each year so that they may be included in city/town budgets. With municipal budget preparation starting earlier and earlier, the BRPC Executive Committee voted to recommend the FY27 assessment increase by 2.5% over the FY26 assessment.

Mary McGurn motioned to approve the fiscal year 2027 Assessment as recommended by the Executive Committee. Al Blake seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the motion.

A roll call vote approved it: Jay Meczywor, Al Blake, Peter Traub, Mary McGurn, Malcolm Fick, Keith Harrison, Mark Hawthorne, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Laura Mensi, Sheila Irvin, Sari Hoy, Christine Rasmussen, and Erik Reardon.

### **VIII. Presentation and Discussion about the BRPC Public Health Services and Public Health Planning Programs**

*Laura Kittross described changes to the BRPC Public Health program and provided a brief overview of the work of the BRPC Public Health Services and Planning programs.*

Retiring BRPC Public Health Program Manager Laura Kittross presented an overview of BRPC's [Public Health Program](#). She reviewed the planning and services side of Public Health and the staff's role for each program. The Public Health programs included nursing, education, wellness events, Covid and flu vaccines, inspections, substance use, and more. This served as a guide for what the Public Health program's priorities were throughout the year.

The Services program has two broad areas, Berkshire Public Health Alliance and Berkshire Hampden Training Hub. The Alliance has twenty-three member municipalities and nineteen of those member municipalities receive public health nursing services from BRPC. Eleven communities receive inspectional services, including public health environmental inspections.

The Training Hub provides workforce requirements for inspectors and other public health services. FY25 numbers reported 1600 permits were issued along with 2500 inspections and 2700 vaccinations given.

The new Program Managers, Lydia Shulman (Services) and Jaymie Zapata (Planning) were introduced.

Tom thanked Laura for all her hard work and dedication at BRPC during her tenure here. Laura is currently working in an advisory role for BRPC.

Al Blake asked about how the Berkshires were getting inundated with solar and battery storage implementations and applications. Does the Board of Health have a unique role in assessing those and putting a stop to those? Laura was not aware of a role but heard about this at the state level. Laura could mention this issue at a Board of Health Meeting. The Mass Association of Health Boards, which provides legal advice to boards of health, was mentioned as a good group to be in touch with on this issue. Lydia was attending an upcoming Board of Health meeting and would like to get more information on this for the meeting. Jaymie also suggested checking in with FRCOG because they had a presentation back in the fall about battery and fire storage. Laura would provide a copy of that presentation to Al Blake.

### **IX. Presentation & Discussion of Executive Committee Actions**

Executive Committee actions taken on the Commission's behalf during the December 4, 2025, and January 8, 2026, meetings were presented for information and discussion. There were no comments or discussion of the Executive Committee Actions.

## **X. Open Discussion by Commission Members about Current Items of Interest in their City or Town**

Sari Hoy from Sheffield asked if there was a way to deny a potential bylaw of data centers being created by the town's Planning Board. Is saying no an option? Tom suggested reaching out to CJ Hoss as the best BRPC staff contact for this. Mark Smith commented that something similar was happening in Lenox. Data centers may be a topic added for a future meeting.

## **XI. Report and Discussion of the Executive Director's Report**

Tom reported on new items not in the report:

- Housing choice-new rural housing choice; will go on BRPC website; more information coming
- Berkshire Gas price increases- DPU hearings to be held in Berkshire County
- Seasonal Communities- informational sessions first week of February; send Tom questions if you are part of a seasonal community. Tom would circulate those questions to the EOHLC.

Tom gave an update on the Executive Director search. The search committee met January 14<sup>th</sup> and determined which candidates to bring in for first round interviews. Tom encouraged alternates and delegates to attend in person interviews once confirmed to meet and vote on candidates.

Sari Hoy asked if there were restrictions that would apply to people who were against the tiny homes and if allowed, were there limitations. Mary McGurn commented that you could say no to movable tiny homes.

## **XII. Adjournment**

Sheila Irvin made a motion to adjourn. Al Blake seconded the motion.

A roll call approved the motion without discussion: Jay Meczywor, Al Blake, Peter Traub, Mary McGurn, Malcolm Fick, Keith Harrison, Mark Hawthorne, Buck Donovan, Mark Smith, Laura Mensi, Sheila Irvin, Sari Hoy, Christine Rasmussen, and Erik Reardon.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.