

LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

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FOR TOWN ANNUAL REPORTS LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION July 1st 2016 – July 30th 2017 (FY17)

The Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) is an organization created by Lakes Region communities as enabled by NHRSA 36 for the broad purpose of responding to and shaping the pressures of change in a meaningful way. With a service area covering over 1,200 square miles in Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, and Merrimack Counties, the LRPC provides a wide range of planning services to member municipalities. As our economy and world change, so does the work we engage in. The Commission offers direct and support services to help our communities meet tomorrow's challenges. Our services include group and cooperative purchasing, technical assistance, geographic information systems, transportation planning, land use, environmental planning, hazards planning, and economic development. LRPC is primarily funded through local, state, and federal resources. We also maintain a regular dialogue with state agencies as a resource for the entire Lakes Region. Our overall goal is to provide support, knowledge, and guidance to the governments, businesses, and citizens of the Lakes Region.

Some of the services provided on behalf of the Town of Moultonborough and the region in the past fiscal year are noted below:

OUTREACH

- Worked on Electricity Aggregation that would ultimately save the town approximately \$5,200 and Moultonborough SAU approximately \$17,600 in electricity costs over the next year;
- The regional HHW collection saves the town several thousand dollars per year based on what it would cost if it was bid out separately (not to mention that the regional collection protects Moultonborough from residents from another town illegally dumping in town). While the town hosts one of LRPC's collection sites, Moultonborough consistently has one of the highest levels of participation and receives a better than average value on the collections;
- Four of the top six transportation projects submitted by LRPC to NH's Ten-Year Transportation Plan are located in Moultonborough. These four (4) projects exceed \$2.5 million in estimated cost;
- LRPC applied for and was awarded a \$15,000 Septic Assessment Grant from NHDES which is set to begin soon. Moultonborough also benefits from the work of the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association which is a partner with LRPC. We currently provide them with office space and we host the Winnepesaukee Gateway website where the town's watershed management plans are located;
- We recently completed the transportation chapter of the town's master plan for only 25% of the actual cost and we are currently providing master plan assistance at discounted membership rates;
- Collaborated with Town Administrator on presentations to Northern Lake Winnepesaukee Select Board group;
- Met with Moultonborough Town Administrator to develop Town Planner job recruitment strategy;
- Contacted multiple resources including several planning networks, state and federal agencies, and University programs to identify potential Town Planner candidates;
- Discussed Town Planner position with several job candidates;

- Drafted and revised master plan contract based on town's changing needs;
- Finalized draft Moultonborough Master Plan scope, submitted, and discussed with Interim Town Planner;
- Annotated Scenic Byway map for inclusion in Moultonborough Master Plan chapter, distributed final draft, and correspondence with municipal officials;
- Reached out to Moultonborough regarding economic development and local transportation project eligibility;
- Met with Moultonborough officials and NH DOT Bureau of Traffic and District Office staff to discuss traffic calming alternatives, sidewalk improvements and village gateway treatments and proposed demonstration project for traffic calming with positive reception from meeting attendees; and
- Discussed NH28 funding status with NH DOT engineer/project manager and project specifics with Moultonborough DPW Director and Town Planner.

REGIONAL SERVICES

- Hosted the June 26, 2017 Annual Meeting held at the Wolfboro Inn in Wolfboro NH, with featured speaker NH Senator Jeb Bradley. Approximately 100 attendees socialized, enjoyed the awards presentations and the Senator's speech;
- Began work on Electricity Aggregation that would ultimately save participating communities and school districts approximately \$110,000
- Completed environmental assessments on contaminated properties throughout region to control liability and encourage redevelopment through Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program;
- Provided solid waste technical assistance to Lakes Region Communities through a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Solid Waste & Water grant award;
- Provided Geographic Information System and map making, printing, and scanning services to communities throughout the region;
- Assisted planning boards, ZBA's, and conservation commissions with Technical Land Use Assistance;
- Convened and staffed Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee (PRLAC) meetings;
- Updated the PRLAC website; addressed questions about availability of information relative to Northern Pass testimony - minutes, agenda (10 years) and Management Plan; and sent follow-up information to PRLAC representatives, including legislative tracking links;
- Addressed Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) award ceremony in Ashland with NHDRED Commissioner Rose, NBRC Co-Chair and representatives from US Senator Ayotte and US Representative Kuster's offices;
- Continued interim Town Planner/Circuit Rider assistance to enrolled communities;
- Led Lakes Region community involvement in Regional Public Health Roundtable and webinar on Financing Climate Change Actions;
- Responded to numerous requests for reviews on Developments of Regional Impact, prepared draft comments, discussed with staff and municipal planners, corresponded with state and local officials, reviewed relevant state statutes, and explored methods of improving LRPC process;
- Assisted many Lakes Region communities in developing and updating Hazard Mitigation Plans for acceptance by NH Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);
- Provided Master Plan Update assistance to communities;
- Coordinated with NH Division of Historical Resources Architectural Historian regarding panel to assist in the development of historic resources survey through FEMA Storm Recovery Program;
- Maintained appropriate staff training in FEMA hazard mitigation planning;

- Maintained dialogue and provided critical regional information to US Census on draft New Hampshire Town-wide Area Form Proposal and Manual, and 2020 Census Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Information Guide and website information;
- Worked to become designated as Local Development District (LDD) through federal Northern Regional Border Commission to make region eligible for grant funding program and assisted members with upcoming funding round;
- Assisted several communities with recruiting, interviewing, and hiring new Planning Department staff members; and
- Conducted Regional Shared Services Survey to gauge communities' interest in potential shared services and cooperative buying opportunities.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

- Handled over 43 tons of Hazardous Substances from 25 Communities and safeguarded the region's overall water quality and environment through coordination of the 28th Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days;
- Had the assistance of over 80 volunteers;
- Had record number of cars in attendance, 1,839;
- Business cards with supplementary information about the Lakes Region Household Hazardous Product Facility (LRHHPF) and disposal of unused medications were printed and distributed. New this year were colorful refrigerator magnets with contact information, collection reminders, and a recipe for a non-toxic cleaner;
- This was the first year of a contract with a new vendor, Clean Venture/ACV. This arrangement is an important step in controlling costs to the communities and LRPC; and
- Our survey asked about willingness to pay a disposal fee on both latex and oil-based paints to allow for recycling of unused paint. 74% of those responding approved of the concept.

EDUCATION

- Convened five Area and Full Commission meetings and facilitated discussion on: Solar power, Accessory Dwelling Units, Regional Electricity Demand Aggregation, legislation in the Lakes Region (including legislation on setback on seasonal docks, NH Energy Policy, and Complete Streets among other topics), a view from the NH Senate, and the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program;
- Provided valuable environmental consulting assistance through Phase I and Phase II Brownfield Assessments and redevelopment activity on nearly a dozen Lakes Region sites;
- Maintained a digital and traditional library of significant planning documents from air quality to zoning;
- Prepared strategic planning reports such as demographic studies, build-out analyses, and attitude surveys, etc.;
- Upgraded our website, www.lakesrpc.org to include an improved home page with a rotating display and links to our most visited pages, improved HHW page, a new Solid Waste page, improved community pages, link to our new Facebook page and much more;
- Developed and awarded Lake Winnisquam Watershed Management Assistance Program;
- Collaborated with other regional planning commissions through NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions and Executive Directors' meetings in Concord;

- Coordinated with Belknap county conservation district on regional aquifer protection ordinances and supported BCCD's efforts on bank stabilization project;
- Corresponded with staff and others regarding the Lake Winnisquam Watershed Homeowners' Association watershed protection efforts and coordinated Local Source Water Protection Grant outreach meeting with NH DES;
- Coordinated Source water protection workshop and review of groundwater protection model ordinance requirements with planning board representatives from 6 communities;
- Trained by NH DHHS in Climate Adaptation Strategies;
- Researched, developed with health partners and circulated Lyme disease resources and materials;
- Coordinated and hosted several Solid Waste Roundtable meetings. Topics included: Universal Waste, Electronic Waste, Composting, Recycling, and Plastic Bags; and
- Began development of a resource guide for municipal outdoors workers and landscapers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Served as NH Business Finance Authority (NHBFA) Board member and voted on major credit and bond issues including loan guarantees for area businesses;
- Coordinated with area economic development groups including Belknap Economic Development Council (BEDC), Capital Region Development Corporation (CRDC), Franklin Business and Industrial Development Corporation (FBDIC), Grafton County Economic Development Council (GCEDC) and Mount Washington Valley Economic Council in pursuit of workforce development and growth opportunities for the region;
- Continued to work with area economic development organizations, and pursue relevant opportunities with the Economic Development Administration;
- Worked with NHBFA and City of Franklin officials to develop a loan application to perpetuate downtown development. Assisted city on whitewater park EDA application;
- Participated in search committee and interviews for NHBFA Executive Director; and
- Worked with Northfield EDC on wastewater system expansion.

TRANSPORTATION

- Continued working with the Lakes Region Tour Scenic Byway Advisory Committee to spur economic development and preserve regional scenic quality and visitor experiences;
- Provided Geographic Information System services and technical land use assistance to our communities;
- Conducted over 200 annual traffic counts around the region;
- Coordinated and conducted meetings of the regional Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to enhance local involvement in regional transportation planning and project development;
- Assisted communities with Road Safety Management Systems analysis;
- Provided assistance to two public transportation groups: The Carroll County Regional Coordinating Council, and the Mid-State Regional Coordinating Council;
- Continued work on the Regional Transportation resources webpage;
- Conducted culvert inventories in pilot communities throughout the region;
- Conducted Catch basin inventories in Alton and Center Harbor;
- Supported Complete Streets regional discussion and state legislation;

- Coordinated with NHDOT Safety Engineer and municipal officials to establish Road Safety Audits in several communities; and
- Conducted regional assessment of regional bike-ability including gaps in bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the region.