

## MEETING MINUTES

### Legislative Policy Committee

**Tuesday, April 27, 2021; 11:00 A.M.**  
**Remote Meeting Via Zoom**

Per RSA 91-A:2, III(b) the RPC Chair has declared the COVID-19 Outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting.

1. Call to order.
2. Reviewed status of two surviving bills on watch list.
  - *HB025 – Capital Budget including provision of funds for Coastal Flooding Model. Introduced in Senate on 4/8 and referred to Senate Capital Budget Committee. Hearing has yet to be set.*
  - *SB095 - Relative to remote board meetings under the right-to-know law. Hearing held in House Judiciary on 4/22. Executive Session scheduled for 5/11. The committee recommended staff prepare a letter to the House Judiciary Committee describing the benefit that RPC has seen from remote meetings over the past year in terms of increased participation by Commissioners and the public.*
3. Review 2019-2020 RPC Legislative Policies document for update and reapproval.

Scott Bogle reviewed the most recent RPC Legislative Policies document, approved by the RPC Executive Committee in October 2019 for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session. Tim Moore updated information on the legislative review process on the first page of the document, and added a recommended policy under the Right-To-Know section:

*Legislation that will permit remote meetings for all boards and commissions provided that public access is not hindered, meeting notices and/or agenda also include how to access the meeting remotely and that meetings be conducted in the same manner as “in person” meetings.*

This is consistent with updates incorporated in the MPO Public Participation Plan in 2020 providing for use of virtual meetings during the period covered by the Governor’s Emergency Order 12 on COVID-19 and recommending continued use of virtual meetings to the extent allowable under RSA91a post-pandemic based on their observed effect of increasing participation.

There was discussion of several points in the Environment section, particularly related to coastal resiliency. James Van Bokkelen asserted that coastal ecosystems will need to move inland. He noted that the strategy of moving sand to shore up barrier beaches in North Carolina isn't working anymore. Barbara Kravitz noted that the Army Corps of Engineers dredges Hampton Harbor every 5 years and deposits the dredged sand to ameliorate the beach. She added that resiliency is a question of protecting economic value as well as infrastructure.

James Van Bokkelen asked to what extent has RPC has given guidance to towns on new FEMA standards for 100 year storm events. Barbara Kravitz noted new FEMA flood maps out in the last month or two. James Van Bokkelen noted that South Hampton updated their zoning to respond to new flood maps at March town meeting.

Regarding energy there was discussion of the status of relicensing of Seabrook Station. James Van Bokkelen noted concern over on-site storage of spent fuel, and how the proposed powerline in Western Maine bringing Quebec Hydro power to NH and MA will impact the need for Seabrook Station. Scott Bogle will look into status of relicensing.

There was discussion of adding a policy supporting electricity aggregation.

There was discussion of Housing policy #2 on Short Term Rentals. James Van Bokkelen noted that South Hampton requires a special exception from ZBA for short term rentals and requires full conformance with NH law regarding taxation. This gives town a lever to deal with an owner trying to avoid rooms and meals tax charges. South Hampton decided not to regulate rentals longer than 6 months.

4. Review additional bills of interest or concern identified by Committee members with a nexus to the planning issues outlined in the Legislative Policies.

There was no further discussion on bills identified at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

5. Next meeting – Date TBD.
  6. Adjourn.
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