**Rural Policy Advisory Commission (RPAC)**

**In-person at FRCOG Offices & Via Zoom**

**June 9, 2023, 12:30pm**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Linda Dunlavy (FRCOG), Trish Settles (CMRPC), Jay Coburn (Cape Cod Commission/CDP), Wendy Hudson (NPEDC), Dave Christopolis (At-Large), Thomas Matuszko (BRPC), Kimberly Robinson (PVPC), Helena Fruscio Altsman (Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Designee), Bill Veno (MVC), Rep. Natalie Blais

**Members Absent:** Sara Smiarowski (At-Large), Corinne Fitzgerald (Senate President Designee)

**Guests:** Undersecretary of Economic Foundations, Ashley Stolba, Anne Gobi (Director of Rural Affairs), Ethan Melad (CMRPC), James Fuccione (MA Healthy Aging), Steve Ellis (TA, Montague), Jessica Atwood (FRCOG), Mark Maloney

1. **Welcome and introductions:** Linda Dunlavy, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:34pm
2. **Approve minutes of 4/14/2023:** Motion to approve minutes by Tom Matuszko, seconded by Jay Coburn. **Motion passed unanimously.**
3. **Discussion:**

The meeting began with a discussion of the annual report. It is due by the end of June, and it was decided that the existing format will remain in place.

This was followed by a review of the FY24 meeting schedule, which includes 6 meetings per year as well as any additional special meetings. It was decided that FY24 meetings will be split between hybrid format and fully virtual; as meetings are meant to be held in all regions of the state, each virtual meeting will be opened by a particular regional host. Schedule of hosts to be determined. Meetings will remain on Fridays roughly 10am-12pm time slot and will begin in September.

Linda updated the group on seat appointments. Rep. Blais and Kim Robinson are currently the only appointed members. We are still waiting for the (re)appointments.

It appears that the Rural Policy Plan update will not be funded this year, so the group will explore again next year.

Someone asked whether Anne Gobi’s office will have a budget, she responded that she will be utilizing existing departmental resources.

There was some discussion of topics for the next meeting, which included inviting RCAP to speak on the issue of private well water quality.

Linda informed the group that she had acquired legislation tracking software to help with monitoring the status of legislation in progress.

Tom mentioned that WRAP (Winter Road Assistance Program) has been extended.

The next RPAC meeting will be in September, hosted by Jay on the Cape.

**Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm**

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Ethan Melad, CMRPC, on behalf of Trish Settles, CMRPC, RPAC Clerk