

## **Minutes of the Rural Policy Advisory Commission Meeting**

Date: September 8, 2017  
11:00am – 1:30pm  
Truro Community Center  
7 Standish Way  
North Truro, MA 02652

### **Members Present**

Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay (Chair)  
Brian Bullock (At-Large)  
Dave Christopolis (At-Large)  
Donna Hamel (At-Large)  
Linda Dunlavy (Franklin Regional Council of Governments)  
Corinne Fitzgerald (Senate President Appointee)  
Trish Settles (Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission)  
Judy Terry (Pioneer Valley Planning Commission)  
Bill Veno (Martha's Vineyard Commission)  
Wendy Hudson (Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission)  
Jay Coburn (Cape Cod Commission)

### **Members Absent**

Nathaniel Karns (Berkshire Regional Planning Commission)

### **Others Present**

Ryan Ambrose, DHCD  
Callie Clark, MHP  
Carsten Snow, MHP  
Toby Gould, Rural Commonwealth  
Beth Bandy, Rural Commonwealth  
David Panagore, Provincetown Town Manager  
Senator Julian Cyr, Cape and Islands  
Representative Sarah Peake, 4<sup>th</sup> Barnstable

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Undersecretary Chrystal Kornegay (Chair) welcomed members of the Rural Policy Advisory Commission (RPAC) and each member briefly introduced themselves.

### **Adoption of Minutes from June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Commission Meeting**

Board voted to approve minutes without amendment.

### **Overview of Future 2017 – 2018 Meetings**

Commission members confirmed the date and time of the next three commission meetings.

- Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Worcester, MA
- Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Boston, MA
- Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Greenfield, MA

The exact time and location of each meeting has yet to be determined.

### **Presentation – Massachusetts Housing Partnerships’ Center for Housing Data**

Callie Clark, Co-Director of the Center for Housing Data at the Massachusetts Housing Partnership (MHP) gave a presentation on the Center for Housing Data. The goal of the presentation was to introduce the Center for Housing Data to members of the RPAC and to begin a discussion as to where they can be helpful to rural communities. A copy of the presentation is available on the RPAC website.

### **Review – Results of RPAC Municipal Survey**

Commissioner Linda Dunlavy presented the results of the RPAC Municipal Survey that was conducted to get a better understanding of how communities are affected by the policy areas that commissioners decided to focus on (Water/Sewer and Title V, Rural Service Delivery and Small Business Support). The survey was conducted online and was responded to by 59% of the rural communities in Massachusetts. A copy of the presentation is available on the RPAC website.

### **Next Steps**

Commissioners discussed at length how to proceed over the next year and how to make RPAC a more effective organization. Based on these discussions, RPAC Chair Chrystal Kornegay identified five items for commission members to work on before the scheduled January 12, 2018 meeting. Those items and members assigned are as follows:

- **MBI Update:** Ryan Ambrose (DHCD Staff)
  - DHCD staff will work with MBI to provide consistent, quarterly reports to commissioners so that RPAC can better track MBI’s progress towards providing broadband internet to rural Massachusetts.
- **DEP Educational Program:** Linda Dunlavy, Trish Settles, and Chrystal Kornegay
  - RPAC Commissioners will work to engage appropriate staff at the Massachusetts DEP to come to RPAC meetings and give presentations to commissioners on Water / Sewer and Title V issues and how they affect rural communities.
- **RPAC Organizational Models:** Dave Christopolis, Jay Coburn, Trish Settles, Linda Dunlavy, Chrystal Kornegay, Carsten Snow-Eikelberg (MHP Staff), Ryan Ambrose (DHCD Staff)
  - Before the January 12, 2018 meeting, commissioners will be provided with a report on other similar groups around the country outlining how they are organized and funded so that the RPAC can decide how to best organize itself in the future.
- **Short Term Rental Legislation / Rural Caucus Meeting:** Corinne Fitzgerald, Bill Venio, Jay Coburn, Nat Karns, and Ryan Ambrose (DHCD Staff)
  - Staff will schedule a meeting between the Rural Caucus and the Commission. Before the meeting, Commissioners Bill Venio, Corrine Fitzgerald, Jay Coburn, and Nat Karns will

research and review proposed bills and get opinions from appropriate stakeholder groups. The meeting will be to provide RPAC input on the proposed Short Term Rental legislation and to begin a long term dialogue between the Caucus and RPAC. This meeting is planned to happen before 10/30/17.

- **MMA:** Brian Bullock
  - Staff and Brian Bullock will work to figure out how to have rural issues discussed at the next MMA conference in January.

**Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm**