



**Executive Board Special Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2023**

Location: Remote meeting via Zoom.

Members Present: Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair; Ann Golob, Jack Cunningham, Bonnie North, Carolyn Partridge, Tim Arsenault, Stephan Chait, Jim Pinkerton

Absent: Steve Lembke, Carolyn Partridge

Staff present: Chris Company, Executive Director

Public/Guests: none

Presenter: none

Call to Order: Commissioner Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Additions/Changes to Agenda: None.

Endorsement of Vermont Regional Planning Commissions' Request for Full Statutory Funding in Response to Need for Increased Town Needs and Capacity: Executive Director Chris Company explained that the directors of Vermont's 11 regional planning commissions (RPCs) are asking their executive boards or full commissions to sign onto the following statement in support of full funding as provided for in statute:

As regional planning commission board members, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPCs use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

Commissioner Cunningham moved that the Executive Board endorse the statement and direct Chris to provide the names of the voting members. The Board further authorizes Chris to confirm with Executive Board member Steve Lembke to confirm that he would like his name added to the list. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arsenault. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Support for contribution of \$500 to the Housing Coalition of Southeastern Vermont: The Housing Coalition of Southeastern Vermont asked its members for contributions to support the continued

services of a part-time facilitator in support of the Coalition's convenings, discussions, and actions. The Coalition's focus is on strategies to increase and improve the housing stock, support housing retention, advocate for housing issues, and address gaps in housing services. The WRC has been involved since the group's inception. Chris was asked how the work of the Coalition contributed to or conflicted with the work of the Commission. He explained that the WRC frequently organizes and participates in coalitions to further the work of the WRC, as such coalitions are often essential to moving policies and projects forward. He recounted some of the history the WRC has had in forming and participating in collaborative efforts. On a motion by Commissioner Golob, seconded by Commissioner Arsenault, the Board approved the contribution of \$500 in support of a part-time facilitator for the Housing Coalition of Southeastern Vermont by a unanimous vote.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 on a motion by Commissioner Golob.