



**Full Commission Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2025**

Commissioners Present:

Stanley Noga, Jr.	Brookline
Kevin Stine	Dover
Matthew Hoffman	Dummerston
Cheryl Kaufman	Grafton
Eric Stevens	Grafton
Steve Lembke	Guilford
Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair	Guilford
Stephan Chait	Halifax
Peter Silverberg	Halifax
Andy Coyne	Jamaica
Patti Smith	Marlboro
James Bressor	Newfane
Ann Golob	Newfane
Dan Toomey	Putney
Andrew Snelling	Townshend
Jim Pinkerton, Jr.	Vernon
Ian Hefele	Vernon
Paul Spector	Wardsboro
Kara Halpern	Weston
Peter Barus	Whitingham
Ann Manwaring	Wilmington
Bill Dunkel	Windham
Cheryl Carr-Maleh	Winhall
Lynette Hamilton	Citizen Interest Commissioner – Agriculture

There was a **quorum** with 18 towns present.

Staff Present: Chris Campany, Executive Director; Matt Bachler, Senior Planner

Guest Participants: None.

Call to Order: Chair Ciuffreda called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02 p.m.

No amendments to agenda.

Chair Ciuffreda asked each Commissioners to introduce themselves as we have had several new Commissioners appointed since the last meeting.

January & February Meeting Notes: There was not a quorum present at these meetings and meeting notes do not require approval. No action taken. Meeting notes are available on the Full Commission page of our website: <http://www.windhamregional.org/committees/full-commission>.

November 12, 2024 Minutes: On a motion by Commissioner Dunkel seconded by Commissioner Pinkerton, the minutes were approved with 3 abstentions.

Regional Plan Update Comments, Schedule & Request to Hold Public Hearings:

Senior Planner Matt Bachler summarized Commissioner and public comments received to date, and related edits made to the draft plan. He noted that the changes did not change policy and were clarifying in nature. He then reviewed the proposed schedule for regional plan adoption, including the proposed period during which formal public hearings would be held and a target Full Commission adoption date of July 29th. Commissioners asked that both hearings be hybrid in-person and remote. Both will be held in the WRC conference room. Commissioner Stevens suggested that the July 29th meeting be held in person. Executive Director Campany noted that could make achieving the required 2/3rds quorum of all town-appointed Commissioners difficult, and that a hybrid option be considered. Chair Ciuffreda made a motion that the plan be moved to public hearings with a goal of regional plan adoption by the Full Commission at its meeting on July 29th. Commissioners will be polled as to availability and an in-person meeting will be considered. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Coyne and approved by a unanimous vote.

Project Review Committee Report: Project summaries are available in the agendas and the committee's deliberations and actions are summarized in the minutes, both of which are found on the [WRC Committee page](#). All information for past and current applications is available on the [Act 250 Database](#) for Act 250 projects or the [ePUC Database](#) for 248 projects with the Public Utility Commission. Questions related to the Project Review Committee can be directed to the staff to the Project Review Committee, Senior Planner, [Alyssa Sabetto](#). Chair Ciuffreda introduced Commissioner Jim Pinkerton as the newly-appointed Chair of the Project Review Committee.

Executive Director's Report: Chris explained that due to tariffs he moved forward with the purchase of computers and related equipment that would need to be replaced within the next year or two. He did so in an attempt to save money and in anticipation of possibly leaner budgets in years ahead. Chris explained that thus far there have been no direct impacts related to federal funding delays but that the elimination of the FEMA Building Resilient Communities and Infrastructure (BRIC) program will limit town options for hazard mitigation funding. It is also the source of funding the state uses to fund town updates to their local hazard mitigation plans. He explained that the director of Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) had indicated that Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) funds were level-funded and that with state costs increasing, the amount available to RPCs would likely decrease. The director also noted the possibility that FEMA would not release EMPG and other grant sources that fund the majority of VEM's operations, which Chris noted would cause the state to examine what VEM might look like in the absence or reduction in federal funds. Lastly Chris noted that it had been widely reported in the news that a memorandum between the acting head of FEMA and the President proposed an approach that would reduce the number of federal disaster declarations ahead of the coming hurricane season. He did not know if this was related to recent federal disaster declaration denials in WA, WV, VA, KY, AR, and NC, but this was something towns should plan for. He called Commissioner attention to the From the Director article in the most

recent newsletter that suggests steps towns can take to best position themselves financially in the event that federal support for disaster recovery is reduced.

Chair's Report: Chair Ciuffreda noted that Commissioner Lembke had been appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee and that he would begin reaching out for potential candidates to fill current vacancies as well as officers for FY 2026.

Public Comment: None was offered.

Adjournment: On a motion by Commissioner Coyne, seconded by Commissioner Pinkerton, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Campany