

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION
Minutes of the Commission Meeting
held on
November 21, 2019
6:00 p.m. – New River Valley Business Center, Fairlawn

I. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Mr. M. Harvey, Chair, Montgomery County; Mr. M. Maslaney, Floyd County, Vice-Chair; Ms. S. Anderson, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. C. Bopp, Pulaski County; Mr. L. Clevinger, Town of Pulaski; Mr. S. Fijalkowski, Montgomery County; Mr. D. Horton, City of Radford; Mr. T. Garrett, Town of Narrows; Dr. H. Harvey, City of Radford; Mr. J. Herbein, Town of Blacksburg; Mr. H. Johnson, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. C. Kiwus, Virginia Tech; Mr. R. Lawson, Town of Pembroke; Mr. M. Patton, Town of Floyd; Mr. J. Radcliffe, Town of Pulaski; Ms. A. Schumaker, Radford University and Dr. D. Warren, Pulaski County.

ABSENT: Mr. L. Law, Giles County, Treasurer; Mr. T. Clontz, Town of Pulaski; Mr. H. Collins, Town of Christiansburg; Mr. J. Coleman, Floyd County; Ms. A. Covey, New River Community College; Ms. S. Journell, Town of Pearisburg; Mr. W. Kantsios, Town of Rich Creek; Mr. R. McCoy, Giles County and Ms. C. Potter, Virginia Tech.

Staff Attendees: Jessica Barrett, Kevin Byrd, Julie Phillips and Patrick O'Brien.

Other Attendees: Dan McKeague

II. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes for October

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Ms. Anderson moved for the approval of the minutes. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Treasurer's Reports for October

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the consent agenda item if there were no questions or changes.

Motion: Mr. Johnson moved for the approval of the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Kiwus seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMONWEALTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

- A. Projects (Signed-off by the staff)
None
- B. Regular Project Review
None
- C. Environmental Project Review
None

IV. PUBLIC ADDRESS

None

V. REVIEW OF MUTUAL CONCERNS AND COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Mr. Johnson reported the Town of Christiansburg has many roadway improvements underway as well as movement on the Marketplace shopping center. A town center development proposal was recently approved near the NRV mall and the town is working on an updated plan for Truman Wilson Park. Dr. Harvey reported there are several improvements taking place in West Radford, including a new park and green space on West Main. Ms. Anderson reported Shop Small Saturday will take place on 11/30 and Pat Brown, Executive Director of the NRV Women's Resource Center, retired recently after 32 years of service. Mr. Harvey reported the Town of Blacksburg is working with several community groups to draft a plan for new trails on recently acquired property on Brush Mountain. Ms. Schumaker reported Radford University is partnering with the Radford University Foundation to develop river frontage near the Dedmon Center for university and community use along with a hotel project adjacent to campus. Dr. Warren reported the bridge work at Exit 105 off I-81 is significantly delayed and the northbound entry onto I-81 remains closed.

VI. CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey reported the Commission hosted the regional Mayors/ Board of Supervisors Chairs meeting on 11/1 and it was well attended. He explained there are currently two options for the office space committee to discuss and he will call a meeting of the committee in December. He recognized Mr. Collins for serving on the Commission Board from 2016 until 2019, and Patrick O'Brien for his five-year anniversary with the Commission.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Byrd provided a summary report in the Commission agenda packet. He reported staff presented the Christiansburg Downtown plan to Town Council this month. Hill Studio is preparing concept site designs for a potential ARC implementation project. He attended the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport master plan committee meeting on 11/19 and shared information about anticipated public engagement opportunities during the plan development process.

The I-81 Exit 105/New River Bridge project in Radford is behind schedule and not likely to make the December 2020 completion date. Placement of girders will occur soon which will require a 'slow-roll' procedure for traffic and will cause delays in the area.

The Mayors/Board of Supervisors Chairs regional meeting was held earlier this month. The group received a presentation of preliminary findings from the Regional + Local Housing Study. Roundtable conversation focused on housing production, labor markets for growing industries and revisiting regional tourism collaboration options. The Commission hosted the bi-monthly meeting of destination marketing organizations (local tourism marketing) on November 21 and discussed options for a regional tourism marketing program. The next Local Government Managers meeting will be 1/9/20 at which regional tourism collaboration will be a topic.

The rescheduled Millstone Kitchen open house will be held February 12.

Concept drawings for the office space configuration were received recently and the office space committee will meet in December.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. U.S. Forest Service Updates

Dan McKeague, District Ranger with the US Forest Service, provided an update on the Eastern Divide Ranger District. He discussed staffing, budgets and their program of work along with sustainable recreation initiatives including current partnerships and an overview of changes taking place in the recreation program. Lastly, he provided an update on the District's prescribed burn program and anticipated implementation over the next two years.

B. FY19 Audit Report

Mr. Byrd explained the Audit Report was included in the agenda packet and there were no findings or management comments.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the FY19 Audit Report.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved for the approval of the FY19 Audit Report. Mr. Garrett seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Composition

Mr. Byrd explained the proposed CEDS Committee list for 2019-20 was included in the packet.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of the CEDS Committee list for 2019-20.

Motion: Ms. Anderson moved to approve the CEDS Committee list for 2019-20. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

D. December meeting traditionally cancelled.

Mr. Byrd explained the December Commission meeting is historically cancelled due to holiday conflicts.

Mr. Harvey called for approval of cancelling the December meeting.

Motion: Mr. Patton moved to cancel the December meeting. Mr. Bopp seconded the motion.

Action: Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harvey called to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm.

M. Harvey, Chair
New River Valley Regional Commission