



Approved 12/15/2021

North Country Council Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2021

2:00 to 4:00 pm

Lancaster Town Hall Auditorium First Floor | 25 Main Street | Lancaster NH

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Grant, Chair; Paul Robitaille, Secretary; Robin Irving, Vice Chair; Ben Gaetjens-Oleson; and Jennifer Fish, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Carl Martland

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Michelle Moren-Grey, Executive Director; and James Steele, Finance Manager & Special Projects Planner

Call to Order – 2:04pm

Michelle Moren-Grey called the meeting to order

MOTION: Board Member Robitaille moved to approve the meeting minutes for the July 2nd, 2021; July 15th, 2021; and August 4th, 2021 meetings. It was seconded by Board Member Irving. No discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Chair Doug Grant announced that he would be stepping down from his position. The Board of Directors (BOD) thanked Chair Doug Grant for his time and service.

MOTION: Board Member Irving moved to accept his resignation, effective immediately. It was seconded by Board Member Fish. No discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Board Member Irving moved to approve Board Member Robitaille as the BOD Chair. It was seconded by Board member Fish. Board Member Robitaille stated his willingness to step into this position. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

MOTION: Board Member Robitaille moved to approve Ben Gaetjens-Oleson as the BOD Secretary. It was seconded by Board member Irving. No discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The BOD discussed the new slate of board members and the next month's Annual Commission meeting, including health and safety logistics. A housing presentation will be occurring at the meeting.

Financial -

James Steele provided a financial update. Last month, NCC performed the final payment on CDFA loan. NCC ended the month operating with \$221,000. Steele stated that the council is in a strong financial position with plenty of work on the horizon. The last month was more expensive due to the completion of payments on the audit.

Board Member Irving asked about the money remaining in reserve for deferred dues. James Steele Stated that the deferred dues were moved to profit as part of FY21 audit.



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Other Business -

Michelle Moren-Grey announced that new ads have been posted for the transportation planner, associate planner, and planning specialist positions. The planning specialist position has been filled. Due to the current hiring landscape, the time to fill positions is taking longer. Discussion continued regarding hiring including housing challenges, cost of ad placement, other RPC results and placement of advertising.

James Steele handed out copy of the audit and brief overview. The auditor will join the Board in November for a presentation.

James Steele stated that the household hazardous waste collection has gone smoothly.

Michelle Moren-Grey stated the next meeting will be held on November 18, 2021, from 2 to 4pm.

Michelle Moren-Grey stated a work session was held regarding dues. The new census data has been released and is useable. Some town dues drop, and others increase based on current levels. Moren-Grey stated a suggestion that dues are held at FY21 rate for now and enable a 5% decrease if reasonable. Due to potential population volatility over the next few years, this proposal was shared as prudent measure. Caps for large municipalities was also discussed as a way to attract and retain those communities.

Michelle Moren-Grey stated that all 9 NH RPCs are funded to update their regional housing needs assessment. The RPCs are working to standardize the methodology & data to be comparable across the state. A discussion occurred regarding short-term rental properties.

Nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A:3, II (if needed) - none

Public Comment - none

Adjourn – 3:06pm

Respectfully Submitted – Jared Cape