

COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES – January 23, 2008

1/Call to Order: Chairman Susan Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the SRPEDD Office. A quorum was declared with the following members in attendance.

Commissioners:

H. Young, Acushnet	G. Ayrassian, Attleboro	J. Gittle, Attleboro	J. Callahan, Berkley
F. Muscato, Carver	R. Carney, Dartmouth	L. Miller, Dartmouth	D. Kulpa, Dighton
L. Carvalho, Freetown	C. McGowan, Mansfield	L. Flynn, Mansfield	J. Henry, Marion
R. LaBelle, New Bedford	D. Kennedy, New Bedford	J. Marchitto, No. Attle.	H. Graf, Norton
S. Peterson, Rochester	L. Dunn, Seekonk	J. Quin, Somerset	J. Toulan, Somerset
K. Shea, Taunton	S. Ouellette, Westport	J. Whitin, Westport	B. Foss, Attleboro A/L
G. Hovorka, F. River A/L	M. Mattos, Taunton A/L		

Absent:

S. Leary, Berkley	A. Kingsbury, Carver	H. Swist, Dighton	A/ Borges, Fairhaven
R. Fleurent, Fairhaven	E. Medeiros, Fall River	J. Hartnett, Fall River	L. Remedis, Freetown
R. Garbitt, Lakeville	W. Healey, Lakeville	S. Briggs, Marion	M. Estes, Mattapoissett
R. Rogers, Mattapoissett	S. Spataro, Middleborough	R. Geoffroy, Middleboro	R. Thimot, No. Attle.
D. Miller, Norton	S. Widak, Plainville	M. Newfield, Raynham	D. Marciello, Rehoboth
B. Moitozo, Rehoboth	R. Kunz, Rochester	D. Kinniburgh, Seekonk	M. Pukulis, Swansea
S. Antinelli, Swansea	R. Campbell, Taunton	B. Sauvageau, Wareham	C. Gricus, Wareham
L. Pitta, Fall River A/L	P. Sullivan, New Bedford A/L		

Guest/Staff:

N. Bumbaugh, SRPEDD	S. Smith, SRPEDD	R. Hebert, SRPEDD	D. Sullivan, SRPEDD
R. Reilly, Norton			

2/Approval of Minutes: Following review, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of November 28, 2007. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Chairman Peterson requested that everyone introduce themselves and their represented community.

3/ Guest Speaker: Jennifer Menard, Executive Director of the South Coast Development Partnership was the guest speaker for the evening. Using a PowerPoint presentation along with informational folders, Ms. Menard spoke about the responsibilities of the South Coast Partnership. She stated that this is a highly desirable region that offers both quality of life and economic opportunity. Ms. Menard explained how the South Coast Partnership works together with Economic Development Agencies by providing guidance and contact information. She remained for a question and answer period. Chairman Peterson thanked Ms. Menard for her presentation.

4/a.Reports/ Chair Susan Peterson: None

3/b. Executive Director Steve Smith: Steve Smith stated the 2008 New England Association of Regional Councils (NEARC) Conference has been scheduled for January 29 & 30 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. He stated that he and Roland were planning to attend and if anyone wanted to go SRPEDD would pay for them. They should let him know as soon as possible. The subject is New England Transportation Futures and Reauthorization Strategy Summit.

Steve also introduced a booklet entitled *A Best Practices Model for Streamlined Local Permitting* produced by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies. He stated that Sandy Conaty had contributed to several chapters in the book. Steve encouraged everyone to read book, and if anyone sees a something in a bylaw that appeals to them or their respective city or town they should give him a call, SRPEDD is ready to help anyone implement a bylaw that can help a community.

5/Consent Agenda/ a/Regional Reviews: Following review, a motion was made and seconded to accept the following report and place on file. VOTED UNIMOUSLY

CAPITAL FACILITIES PROJECTS: None

B. INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS (IRB'S): Under provisions of Section 12(2) of Chapter 40D of the Mass. General Laws, the MIFA board shall consult with the appropriate local and regional planning agencies to ascertain the relationship of a proposed project to any existing state, local or regional comprehensive plan. SRPEDD has been notified that the following IRB's are under consideration. These are presented for your information.

b.1 Project Proponent: Alternatives Unlimited, Inc. located in Auburn, Clinton, Douglas, Leominster, Millbury, Northbridge, Plainville, Uxbridge, Whitinsville, Worcester, and Wrentham, MA

Nature of Request: To assist the applicant in financing a non-profit project

Project Location: Plainville

Project: Proposed is the refinancing of outstanding conventional debt that has been borrowed to accomplish the renovation of a 37,000 square foot mill complex

Project Cost: \$11,000,000

C. ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION REVIEWS: The following Environmental Notification Forms have been received for review under the provisions of the Mass. Environmental Protection Act (MEPA). Staff, when appropriate makes comments, and the status of projects is monitored.

c.1 PROJECT TITLE/LOCATION: Fall River Redevelopment Authority

PROJECT PROPONENT: Fall River, MA

DESCRIPTION: The proposed FREP will entail approximately 293 acres of the 300 acres of land to be transferred; the remaining seven acres are proposed for use in the development of the new Route 24 interchange by MassHighway.

c.2 PROJECT TITLE/LOCATION: Proposed Mixed-Use Development, Rte. 140, Taunton

PROJECT PROPONENT: R.J. Kelly Companies, Burlington, MA

DESCRIPTION: The project site is located at 1141 County St. in Taunton and consists of approximately 43 acres on the south side of Route 140. Phase 1 of the proposed project will consist of the development of an 81-499m hotel and a restaurant with up to 200 seats. Access to the site will continue to be provided via Industrial Drive. A comprehensive transportation mitigation program will be implemented in conjunction with Phase 1 of the project.

b/Contract/Grant Approvals: Steve Smith reviewed the report. A motion was made and seconded to approve the following resolution. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLVED that the SRPEDD Commission authorizes the Chairman, Treasurer, Officers and Executive Director, as appropriate, to negotiate and execute the following contracts/employee agreements:

1. With the Town of Somerset to manage an Economic Development Fund award for predevelopment planning assistance in the amount of \$8000; work to commence on October 1, 2007 and be completed by June 30, 2008.
2. With the Executive Office of Safety and Security for fiduciary services including pass through and cost reimbursement for FFY2007 Homeland Security funding in the amounts of: \$2,467,616 – State Homeland Security Program and \$1,762,882 – Law Enforcement Terrorism Program. Contract start date unknown; contract duration for a period of 18 months.

6/Committee Reports/a/Personnel Committee: No report

b/Finance Committee: Asst. Treasurer, Joan Marchitto presented the report of the Finance Meeting of January 16, 2008. Following the report a motion was made and seconded to approve and place on file. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

c/Regional Economic Strategy Committee: Steve Smith presented the report of the December meeting. He stated that Clyde Barrow, Director at UMass Dartmouth Center for Policy Analysis will be the guest speaker at the RESC meeting on February 19. The meeting will be held at the Middleborough Town Hall. Mr. Barrow is considered to be an authority on casino issues in the Southeastern region.

d/Joint Transportation Planning Group: Roland Hebert presented the report of the January meeting. He discussed the ramifications of the states rejection of the statewide TIP. He stated that the federal government rejected the STIP because they do not currently have any spending money to match the federal transportation apportionments. Roland then introduced a letter addressed to the SRPEDD Commission requesting a statewide Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting. He stated that the JTPG had met on January 9 and had voted to send a letter to the Secretary of Transportation requesting a statewide meeting of the MPO to discuss and demand resolution of the states fiscal problems. He requested that the Commission consider voting to support this statewide meeting. Following discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve the sending of the letter to Secretary Cohen and requesting a statewide meeting of the MPO. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

Roland also spoke about a meeting scheduled for March 26 at UMass Dartmouth relative to Short Sea Shipping. He went on to explain what Short Sea Shipping was. He stated that the conference will feature leaders and researchers who will discuss the opportunities of short sea shipping as a viable and environmentally friendly commercial freight alternative.

e/Futures Task Force: With the power of PowerPoint, Steve Smith presented the final report for the future as seen by The Futures Task Force. Funded by the Island Foundation, the report suggests ways that could be taken to position this region to be competitive and sustainable over the next 50 to 100 years. The report cites choices for the future in areas such as: agriculture, energy land use, the economy, transportation, education, housing and the environment. Following the report it was suggested that the presentation be offered to all local cable companies in order to reach as many people as possible. It was suggested that the PowerPoint presentation be put on the SRPEDD website. Questions such as “where do we go from here” and “where is our audience” were asked and discussed. In conclusion it was agreed that this was a subject that would be presented again to the Commission.

f/Southeast Mass. Commuter Rail Task Force: Steve Smith reviewed the report of the January meeting. A handout of the South Coast Rail meeting was available as a handout. The meeting, evaluation criteria, and alternatives routes for commuter rail were contained in the draft report prepared by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) and were discussed at length by the commissioners. Heather Graf of Norton presented a position statement from ‘Citizens Concerned About Tracks’ (CCATS) opposing the Attleboro alternative. Following her statements, she stated that this study currently underway is unnecessary, has all been done before and is just a “colossal waste of time.”

g/Southeast Homeland Security Advisory Council: Roland reported that the Office of Homeland Security has approximately \$400,000 in un-obligated NIMS Training funds. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been sent to the participating 96 cities and towns requesting applications on how the money should be spent. The deadline for submitting applications is February 28. If anyone has any questions they could contact Suzanne Dagesse at the SRPEDD office.

h/MARPA: No report.

6/Old Business/a/Municipal Assistance: The report was available in the handout, following review; a motion was made and seconded to accept the report and place on file. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

b/Proposed Middleborough Casino: No report. Dr. Clyde Barrow, a considered casino expert, will be a guest speaker in Raynham on January 28 at the Town Hall.

8/New Business: None

9/Adjourn/Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission is set for February 27, 2008. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY

_____ George Hovorka, Secretary