



## **Regional Plan and Policy Committee Minutes**

May 22, 2024 6:00 p.m., Virtual Meeting

**Attendance:** Yvon Dandurand, Chip Sawyer, Peter Zamore, Marlena Valenta, Catherine Dimitruk

1. Additions to the Agenda

No additions to the agenda.

2. Public Comment

No public in attendance.

3. Draft Energy Plan

Peter gave an overview of the process for developing the draft energy plan and the proposed process for moving forward. This was an update, with a focus on equity, switching from a focus on targets to a focus on directionality, eliminating jargon and repetition. The equity section reflects the regional plan equity section, and connects it to energy and climate issues. The targets were adjusted to look at a least cost approach. He added the biodigester target. Targets for wind and hydro were reduced. Overall targets are also lower, because progress has been made. Map changes included:

- Context descriptions on maps
- Possible vernal pools moved to possible constraints
- Expansion of conservation blocks from forest blocks to include connectivity blocks, physical landscape blocks, and surface water and riparian areas
- Fletcher Conservation District moved from possible to known constraint, Franklin Conservation District moved from no restrictions to known constraint

Questions and discussion include: Does the energy chapter need to be amended? Does the plan balance any increase in rail vs. the benefits of a rail trail? It would be worth adding a sentence about balancing any return to rail with loss of multi-modal benefits. There was a discussion about rail freight and current challenges.

*Chip moved, Yvon seconded to accept Energy and Climate Committee recommendation to begin the hearing process. Motion carried.*

4. Regional Plan Next Steps: Housing Targets and Land Use Plan

C. Dimitruk provided an overview of the work we will need to do on housing targets, potential legislative changes to housing targets, and statewide consistency for future land use plans. Committee members noted the importance of public education about this work.

5. Commissioner and Staff Announcements

C. Dimitruk thanked Peter for his service as Committee Chair. Committee members discussed the need for education and information so that for local citizens to be more connected to this work and legislative changes.

*Yvon moved to adjourn. Chip seconded; motion carried.*