

**Granite State Future Regional Advisory Sub-Committee  
September 24, 2013**

**3 to 4:30 PM**

**Nashua Regional Planning Commission Office  
9 Executive Park Drive, Merrimack, NH**

**ATTENDEES:**

Beth Todgham, Southern NH Services – Community Action Program  
Kerrie Diers, NRPC  
Jen Czysz, NRPC  
Kim Goddu, NRPC  
Camille Martineau, NRPC

**Meeting Start: 3:05 PM**

Given that there was not a quorum of committee members, those that were present stayed to have a brief discussion of the agenda items and to discuss progress.

## **Outreach and Engagement**

### **Neighborhood Conversations**

C. Martineau gave an update of progress toward setting up the community conversations. Martineau recapped what we have heard so far for the three conversations that we have had. She highlighted common themes such as transportation and access and the issues people are facing with these such as sidewalks that do not get cleared of snow in the winter forcing people to wait in the street for public transit, and para-transit ridership. Also discussed was a common theme for all three conversations which was how safe people feel in downtown Nashua and the overall consensus was that once off Main St. roads were considered unsafe, and people have seen first-hand accounts of violence. Martineau finished the update by sharing the upcoming community conversations in October that have been scheduled which include iUGO, Harbor Homes, and HEAL Nashua. She asked the group for recommendations of other groups to get into contact with.

The committee brainstormed additional possible organizations that NRPC could meet with including attending a monthly parenting meeting with the Nashua Headstart program, joining a Workplace Opportunity Center class, and the Merrimack Senior Center.

### **Outreach Summary**

K. Diers noted we are looking to have committee members each sponsor a conversation on the online forum. To do so, each would be asked to pose a question to their contacts, email it out, and ask that all respond via the online forum. B. Todgham noted that she would be willing to sponsor a transportation and aging population question as well as a social life and aging question. The committee brainstormed possible other contacts to sponsor a question including:

- Liz Racioppi, City Arts Nashua, to sponsor a Arts & Culture question
- Justin Kates, City of Nashua, to sponsor a Public Safety and Emergency Services discussion
- Don Wilson, farm owner in Litchfield, to sponsor an agricultural conversation
- James Vayo, Renaissance Downtown, to sponsor Downtown and Community Centers
- Rebecca Dixon or George Hamilton, to sponsor a question about Farmers Markets

- Neighborworks Southern NH, to sponsor a question about housing

## **Update on Regional Plan Progress**

### **Workshop Updates**

K. Goddu gave a brief overview of the Climate and Energy Workshop, the final topical workshop in the planning process. Speaker presentations were discussed as well as insightful opportunities and the status of some projects in the area. Justin Kates from the City of Nashua was highlighted as a terrific speaker on how to prepare for climate change. Jill Longval, NRPC and Venu Rao, Town of Hollis Energy Action Committee presentations were also discussed. The workshop is the last in a series of workshops for the NRPC Regional Plan. The diversity of attendants was noted to provide new perspectives but only a few municipalities participated.

There will be another transportation workshop for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan that is tentatively scheduled for November 19, 2013. The workshop will be held in the evening. The location is still to be determined, however, will be in downtown Nashua.

### **Chapter Development**

K. Diers reviewed progress on chapter development, noting that the focus thus far has been on the four major technical plan components: Transportation, Housing, Economic Vitality, and the Environment. The technical components will be accompanied by existing conditions and needs assessment and a short overview of the regional plan story. At this point staff is outlining each of the technical components, the existing conditions and needs assessment, and the required data elements to ensure consistency across all sections of the plan. Draft outlines are included in the meeting packet.

## **Regional Visioning Process**

K. Diers presented a draft vision statement for our region based on the work conducted thus far for the transportation and community and economic vitality plan sections, as well, as what we've heard through the outreach and local master plan review process. What do we want to look like as a region in the future? The vision statement needs input from committee members to ensure it reflects what we've heard and is feasible.

## **Other Comments**

B. Todgham shared additional ideas for community conversations. She asked if we had been in contact with the Hispanic Network. An alternative or additional group with a similar constituent group would be the Greater Nashua Initiative that meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month. They are currently working on organizing a symposium in early November.

There were no additional comments or business

## **Future Meeting Dates/Times**

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.