



Old Colony Planning Council Legislative Committee Meeting
February 15, 2024, 3:30pm
Via ZOOM Conferencing or In Person

Video: <https://zoom.us/join>
Meeting ID: 858 8920 0626
Passcode: 259201

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MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:30pm by co-chairs Rhonda Nyman and Noreen O'Toole.
2. Roll Call: Noreen O'Toole, Rhonda Nyman, Valerie Massard, Iolando Spinola
 - a. OCPC Staff: Mary Waldron, Megan Fournier, Paul Umamo
3. Purpose of the Committee and Meeting Requirements:
 - a. This committee was approved in 2023 and is convening to align legislative priorities for OCPC to focus on. The goal is to not meet often but discuss what should be acted upon. Some items OCPC suggested include the multi-family housing bill, DLTA and legislative retirement.
 - b. Committee members discussed current priorities they felt were important:
 - i. Noreen – DLTA should always be a top priority, when considering the housing bill infrastructure is the biggest issue for communities. How can MARPA help us?
 - ii. Rhonda – Housing Bill – learning that Milton was unsuccessful. Hanover using technical assistance was helpful.
 - c. Iolando – Clarification on MBTA and housing bond bill
 - d. Val – Agrees with Iolando as well as the infrastructure issue regarding the housing bill and the impact on schools.
 - e. Charlie Provided the following:
 - Support Annual District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) and DLTA-A in State Budget.
 - [H.3470](#) An Act relative to roadway safety
 - Filed by: Representative Tommy Vitolo (15th Norfolk)
Bill Numbers (193rd Session): [H.3470](#)
 - What this legislation does:
 - Redefines crosswalks as "marked crossings" and expands protections to "vulnerable users"
 - [H.3702](#) An Act to promote safe bicycle yielding
 - Filed by: Representative Jennifer Balinsky Armini (8th Essex) and Representative Lindsay N. Sadosa (1st Hampshire)
Bill Numbers (193rd Session): [H.3702](#)
 - What this legislation does:

- Allows bicyclists to legally treat stop signs as "yield"
- [Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for MBTA Communities | Mass.gov](#)
 - This new law requires that an MBTA community shall have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right and meets other criteria set forth in the statute:
 - Minimum gross density of 15 units per acre
 - Located not more than 0.5 miles from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or bus station, if applicable
 - No age restrictions and suitable for families with children
 - Could/ should this be changed/ modified based on experience since implementation?
- [Bill H.3266 \(malegislature.gov\)](#) An Act relative to fare free buses
 - [Bill H.3266 193rd \(Current\)](#)
 - An Act relative to fare free buses
 - By Representatives Barber of Somerville and LeBoeuf of Worcester, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3266) of Christine P. Barber, David Henry Argosky LeBoeuf and others for legislation to establish a Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority pilot program for fare free buses. Transportation.
- [Bill H.2426 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)
 - An Act relative to regional planning agencies
 - By Representative Arciero of Westford, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2426) of James Arciero and others relative to the retirement membership of regional planning agencies. Public Service.
 - This is the bill filed in support of the RPAs with regard to the state retirement system.
- What would a structure of this committee look like:
 - Researching and summarizing current bills that OCPC would like to focus on.
 - What are the impacts/ financial impacts
 - Pros and cons of policies that can be vetted through the committee
 - Goal is for Council members to be the ambassadors for these issues, communicating with their communities and talking with legislators.
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- Create a “parking lot” for Council members to add legislator items they would like to be reviewed and potentially acted upon.
 - Working with MARPA and their legislative liaison.
 - Trying to provide communication from MARPA to legislative committee Right away and to Council members interested.
 - Take a poll of those interested in this sort of communication updates.
 - Each committee member takes on a bill to do research vs. all together
 - Rhonda can be a guidance as a former legislator.
 - OCPC staff will provide a list of bills to divvy up with committee members
 - We don’t want to react, want to be proactive.
 - Aiming to hold a legislative breakfast by the end of June.
 - Discuss more during Council retreat.
4. Provided example of a fact sheet for the Retirement Legislation OCPC is currently working with MARPA on:
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xeI3iKQIBzWMEZHNXayst4YGs76wqQCl/view?usp=drive_link
- a. Would be ideal to create more documents like this.
5. Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.