



Old Colony Planning Council Legislative Committee Meeting

July 23, 2024, 4:00pm

Via ZOOM Conferencing or In Person

Video: <https://zoom.us/join>
Meeting ID: 818 5495 8349
Passcode: 386859

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MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order by committee member, Val Massard at 4:04PM
2. Roll Call: Val Massard, Iolando Spinola, Allison Shane
 - OCPC Staff: Mary Waldron, Megan Fournier, David Klein
3. May 2024 Legislative Meeting Minutes: Unanimous Approval
 - Allison abstained
4. Legislative Priorities:
 - Older Adult Nutritional Funding Cuts:
 - o OCPC received a notice from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, which is included with this email, that federal funds for a Nutrition grant source we use, called the 'Nutrition Services Incentive Program, or NSIP for short' were being reduced after already having been contracted for. We have been in communications on this with Old Colony Elder Services (OCES), who coordinates Nutrition services through our region's Councils on Aging.
 - o Even before the announcement of this reduction, Mass Aging Access, our State Advocacy Organization (formally called Mass Home Care), had been advocating for an FY 2024 Supplemental Budget Amendment to add about \$4 million in additional funding for the State's Older Adult Nutrition line item. Lobbyists for Mass Aging Access have notified Legislature contacts about the deep reduction to the federal Nutrition Services Incentive Program, which is exacerbating the overall Nutrition funding deficit.
 - o An action item was requested for Mary to reach out to our federal and state legislators about this issue as we do not want to be silent on this.
 - Unanimous Approval
 - o If a meeting is called to discuss further with legislators, committee members will be invited to join.
 - Housing Bond Bill: The Affordable Home Act:
 - o Both the House and Senate have voted on their final versions of the Affordable Homes Act and have appointed three members each to a conference committee charged with reconciling the differences between the bills.
 - o These conferees will develop a compromise bill to return to both chambers for a vote, where no further amendments will be accepted.
 - o The Senate has proposed \$5.2 billion, and the House proposed over \$6 billion in bonding authorizations, representing the largest housing bond bill seen in the Commonwealth.
 - o In addition to these authorizations, critical policy priorities are up for debate in the conference committee including: Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) by Right, Inclusionary Zoning by Simple Majority, the creation of an Office of Fair Housing, Eviction Sealing, Tenant Opportunity to Purchase (TOPA), and more.
 - o Unfortunately, the MAPC priority to allow
 - o Local Option Transfer Fees was not included in the House or Senate final bills, though a Commission to study this and other revenue raising options was included in the Senate bill.

- o An action item was requested for Mary to reach out to our state legislators about this issue.
 - Unanimous Approval
 - Permanent Remote and Hybrid Meetings:
 - o Current provisions are set to expire on March 31, 2025
 - o OCPC would like this to become a permanent provision.
 - Unanimous Approval
 - o It WILL be important for all staff and Council members to be properly trained on how to remain in compliance.
 - FY25 Budget
 - o DLTA was level funding. The FFIO (Federal Fiscal Infrastructure Office) is approaching similar aspects of assistance RPA's provide to communities which brings risk to losing funding. RPA's are currently discussing with the Federal Office on this matter
 - o No action needed at this time.
 - Economic Development Bill
 - o We are still waiting on final approval on this as to what will be funded in the bill.
 - Retirement Legislation was NOT included in the amendment. We are waiting to hear from our political advocates on how this is moving forward.
 - Energy and Siting/Climate Bill
 - o On June 27, the Senate debated An Act Upgrading the Grid and Protecting Ratepayers and the House took up their version of the bill on July 17.
 - o This is a comprehensive climate bill that includes some of the recommendations from the recent Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting of which MAPC's Deputy Executive Director Lizzi Weyant was a member.
 - o Both bills make significant reforms to ease the siting and permitting process for clean energy infrastructure and also include language that would ease the procurement of electric buses for municipalities.
 - o The Senate bill includes some additional priorities including a ban on competitive electrical suppliers from contracting with residential customers after 2025, and would expand the state's existing bottle bill to include most beverages while increasing the deposit fee to 10 cents.
 - o We expect a conference committee to be appointed in the coming days.
 - o It will be important to update Legislators on how we use this funding to support our communities.
5. Mary will send an update on status of legislative items once the session ends on July 31st.
- After Mary sends out letters to Legislators, you are encouraged to reach out to legislators as a follow up. Please notify Mary ahead of time so that we are aware of actions being taken from all that represent OCPC.
6. Meeting adjourned at 4:23PM