Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

Full Commission Meeting

April 8, 2026

LaValley Family Community Center ~ Newport, NH

Approved June 10, 2026

COMMISSIONERS	COMMISSIONERS	STAFF PRESENT
Lynn Arnold-Sunapee Read Gildner-Blinn-Lempster Jennie Chamberlain-Hanover Nancy Cleveland-Wilmot Ted Cooley-Orford (Remote) Alan Eisenberg-Wilmot Read Gildner-Blinn-Lempster Peter Guillette-Grantham (Remote) Andrew Hatch-Washington	Chris Kennedy-Hanover (Remote) Jeff Kessler-Newport Bill Malcolm-Lyme Ed Morris-Enfield (Remote) Peter Nichols-New London Albert St. Pierre-Charlestown Josh Trow-Sunapee John Tuthill-Acworth John Yacavone-Plainfield	Meghan Butts Chris Courtemanche John Haffner Anna White

Call to Order

Chair, Bill Malcolm called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2026

Josh Trow moved to approve the February 11, 2026, minutes. Peter Nichols seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Finance: Peter reported that the Commission remains in a strong financial position, with a positive net cash balance of $33,458. However, there was a small loss in February due to legal fees and payroll expenses.

Executive: Bill reported that during our last meeting, we discussed the reserve policy and the search for a finance consultant, given that Anne will be retiring in June.

Personnel/Joint Loss Committee-There is no report available; the meetings have been rescheduled to April 14th.

TAC-There are no updates from the TAC since the meeting has been rescheduled to next week.

Presentation
The presentation focused on the regional planning process and the area's vision by 2035. The discussion highlighted key challenges, including an aging population, housing affordability, and the need for economic development to attract and retain residents. Participants emphasized the importance of integrating housing, transportation, and employment opportunities to create a sustainable future for the region. The group discussed the need to preserve natural beauty while addressing infrastructure requirements and ensuring that residents can age in place. Next steps include forming a regional planning committee to review content chapters and continue public engagement through surveys.

Director Updates

- Search is ongoing for a part-time finance consultant as Anne prepares to retire at the end of June. Meghan requested that the Commission forward the job description to any interested candidates.
- We have hired a former intern as a full-time Associate Planner, starting in June. William will assist with fieldwork this summer as well as Planner duties.
- The budget draft for fiscal year 2027 is currently in its initial stages. It will be presented to the Finance and Executive Committee on April 29th and to the Full Commission during our Annual Meeting at Forbes Tavern in Eastman on June 10th.
- Our indirect rate for fiscal year 2027 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027) has been approved at a rate of 122.49%.
- Update on contracts: As a reminder, we provide circuit rider assistance and currently have contracts with Orford, Wilmot, and Springfield, as well as short-term contracts with Newport for planning assistance and with Vital Communities for housing assistance.
- We received an email this morning that we have been awarded the CDFA Childcare grant, which targets family childcare homes, group homes, and license-exempt providers. The program focuses on increasing capacity through financial support, mentoring, and training. We are one of three RPCs that will be doing the work over the next six months.

Regional Transportation Updates

- Working closely with the Beta Group, our on-call engineer, and local towns to develop Thriving Communities projects and process subaward paperwork.
- A few staff members and I attended the Strategic Highway Safety Plan Summit for New Hampshire, which is held every five years.

- John recently contacted our communities and the commissioners via email to confirm priorities related to transportation projects.
- The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT) suggests creating a wish list for the Ten-Year Plan. We are reviewing our quarterly plan, which we update every few years, to ensure our prioritized projects remain relevant. This will allow us to align our list with the regional plan when funding becomes available.

Other Business:

- We sent out the Committee Survey via email, but we still need one more volunteer for the Finance Committee. Chris will send out another request to gather more responses.

Adjourn:

Josh moved to adjourn the meeting. Read seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Minutes prepared by Chris Courtemanche

The next meeting is on Wednesday, June 10th, 2026