



North Country Council

Bylaws Update

North Country Council Commission Meeting

June 21, 2023




Overview

- Format
- Update State Departments
- Alignment with RSA's
- Quorum & Language Revision



Format

 **Regional Planning Commission & Economic Development District**

NORTH COUNTRY COUNCIL BYLAWS

Article I. Name

The name of this regional organization shall be the North Country Council. North Country Council is a Regional Planning Commission and Economic Development District.

Article II. Legal Authority

The Council is a legal subdivision of the State of New Hampshire as authorized in RSA Chapter 36.

Article III. Area Served

The area served by the Council for the purposes of the Regional Planning Commission shall be as delineated by the NH Office of Energy and Planning. The area served by the Economic Development District, as authorized by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, includes the entirety of the Regional Planning Commission in addition to all of Grafton County.

Section III.01 The Council may delineate subregional districts, within the area served, for administrative purposes to address regional planning issues, special projects, and community assistance.

Article IV. Purpose

The purpose of the Council shall be to:

Before

After

ARTICLE-I. NAME

The name of this regional organization shall be the North Country Council. North Country Council is a Regional Planning Commission and Economic Development District.

ARTICLE-II. LEGAL AUTHORITY

The Council is a legal subdivision of the State of New Hampshire as authorized in RSA Chapter 36.

ARTICLE-III. AREA SERVED

The area served by the Council for the purposes of the Regional Planning Commission shall be as delineated by the NH Office of Energy and Planning. The area served by the Economic Development District, as authorized by the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, includes the entirety of the Regional Planning Commission in addition to all of Grafton County.

Section-III.01

The Council may delineate subregional districts, within the area served, for administrative purposes to address regional planning issues, special projects, and community assistance.

ARTICLE-IV. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council shall be to:

Section-IV.01

Maintain the identity, uniqueness, and integrity of each community in the region while promoting a spirit of regional cooperation and a sense of regional community.

Section-IV.02

Help solve regional issues by making policies, setting priorities, approving programs and projects, and devising the means to carry out decisions.

Section-IV.03

Provide a unified voice for the region's communities on regional issues in relations with the state and federal governments; and to provide assistance to meet state and federal project review and approval procedures.



Update State Department & Alignment with RSA 36

Current – Article III. Area Served

Proposed – NH Office of Energy and Planning to NH Department of Business of Economic Affairs, Office of Planning and Development (*lines 60, 61*)

Proposed – added clarity to Economic Development District region (*lines 63, 64, 65*)

Current – Throughout Commissioner (individual appointed by a member municipality to represent the municipality)

Proposed – Changing the title of individuals appointed by member municipalities from Commissioner to Representatives.

In 2015 a bylaws revision changed the title from Representative to Commissioner.

RSA 36:46 refers to individuals appointed to the Commission by municipalities as representatives. The proposed change will align with the RSA.



Current – Article V. Membership| Section V.05 (line 125)

Proposed – Change Executive Committee to Board of Directors

Reasoning this is the only mention of the Executive Committee, and this is the Board of Directors.

Current – Article VI. | Section VI.02 (lines 143, 144, 145, 146)

Proposed –

Change from: A quorum for NCC Commission Meetings will be met when 25% of the member municipalities are represented and two of the Commissioners are also Board members.

Change to: A quorum for NCC Commission meetings will be met when **51% of the member municipalities with appointed representatives** are present at the meeting and two representatives are Board Members.

		Current Bylaws	Proposed Change 51% members w/appointed Representatives	Explored Scenario 25% of members w/appointed Representatives
		number needed for a quorum		
Member municipalities as of 05/2023	37	10		
Member municipalities with appointed representatives as of 05/2023 (just under 50%)	15		8	4
On average number of member municipalities in a year.	30 to 40	8 to 10		
If we can increase this to 50%	18		9	5



Current – Article VII. Officers (line 149)

Proposed – elimination of board position secretary

Over the years, the secretary has had no significant role beyond a member.

Minutes are kept by Council staff.

The Chair, Vice Chair, or Treasurer signs any special documents.

Current – Article VIII. Board of Directors | Section VIII.02 f) & i) (lines 197, 203)

Proposed – f) Increasing the limit to \$25,000

Reasoning cost of doing business has increased since 2016 and will align with proposed revisions to financial policy to be adopted by Board of Directors.

Proposed – i) Remove this is included in the financial policy and is redundant here



Current – Article IX | Section IX.02 – Committees may have members who are not NCC Commissioners as long as two members are from the Board of Directors (lines 227-229)

Proposed – Remove, committees such as TAC, CEDS, NCSBC etc., represent communities' interest on the committee in specific focus areas. Adding an additional layer to participation and composition to these committees creates a barrier to participation.

Current – Article XI | Section XI. The Annual Meeting of the Council shall be held in the fall of the year at a time and place to be selected by the Board of Directors (line 237)

Proposed – change from “be held in the fall” to late spring or early summer—reasoning alignment with Council’s fiscal year (July to June).





Thank you



If you have questions, please get in touch with Michelle Moren-Grey at mmoren@nccouncil.org

