

**GPCOG Steering Committee Minutes**  
**July 31, 2008 Meeting**  
**11:00 a.m. at GPCOG**

**In attendance:** Paul McKenney, President, Cape Elizabeth; Genie Beaulieu, Freeport; Gordon Billington, Standish; Ed Suslovic, Portland

**Staff:** Neal Allen, Maddy Adams

- (1) **Welcome:** Paul McKenney welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 11:05 a.m.
- (2) **Approval of May 21, 2008 Minutes.** *Genie Beaulieu moved approval of the May 21<sup>st</sup> minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed Suslovic and all were in favor.*
- (3) **Briefing: Nova Scotia Trip.** Neal distributed the itinerary and press release. He reviewed the list of participants. The Grand Hotel is within walking distance of where the CAT drops off in Yarmouth. An 18-passenger coach has been booked for the trip from Yarmouth to Halifax (3.5 hour ride). The Cambridge Suites Hotel is in downtown Halifax. There is a festival going on downtown on Friday night. On Saturday the group will leave Halifax. Ed mentioned a power generation system on the west side and suggested that the group visit that site if possible. They may have to leave Halifax a little bit earlier to do that. The Committee was very happy with the itinerary.

Neal reviewed the list of estimated expenses. Each person can pay for their own room at each hotel. Neal has asked the Chamber to cover the cost of the passenger coach (\$1170). Ed suggested that gifts be brought from each of our municipalities. It was also suggested that appreciation plaques be presented to the Mayors of Yarmouth and Halifax.

Regarding press coverage, Ed called Tom Bell at the Portland Press Herald but he is on vacation; he will approach Ed Murphy or Tex Turkel. It was suggested that some op ed pieces be written. Paul suggested taking a staff person along to take notes and take pictures. It was felt that the group as a whole could take notes and pictures and they would have the chance to debrief on the ride home on the CAT. The possibility of a newspaper reporter joining the group was also suggested. If a reporter should decide to come along, they would have to make their own arrangements.

- (4) **Review: Sustainability Task Force Retreat.** The Retreat is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – location to be determined. The focus is to convene the three task forces and then to break out into separate subgroups to have each group come up with seven principles. Then we will work to develop a regional sustainability plan from those principles. GPCOG staff will put together several models to use as a starting point. We will also include the Charlie Stephens DVD, along with a summary, and a brief report card of CEDS. Perhaps ICLEI can provide some information as well. Then we will report back to the Steering Committee the following week. Then it will go to the Executive Committee for their October meeting. Another Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>. The next Sustainability Forum is scheduled for November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- (5) **Other Business.** Neal announced that David Willauer will be resigning from his position of Director of Planning as of August 12<sup>th</sup>. He is taking a position in the private sector dealing with emergency planning. This is a great opportunity for David but a huge loss for COG. We will be advertising immediately. Neal is hopeful that we will find someone in the state of Maine. We may need to back off on some of the things that COG is currently doing to cover the void. This offers an opportunity to reassess COG's management structure.
- (6) **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at 11:50.