LAKES REGION PLANNING COMMISSION

103 Main Street, Suite #3
Meredith, NH 03253
tel 603-279-8171
fax 603-279-0200
www.lakesrpc.org

July 17, 2013

Mr. Tim Carter
100 Swain Road
Meredith, NH 03253

Dear Mr. Carter:

This letter is in response to your email to our office dated July 15, 2013 and received on that date.

It is important to reiterate that the Lakes Region Planning Commission follows all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to the laws pertaining to public meetings and access to governmental records set forth in RSA 91-A.

Relative to your request for an informal, non-public meeting with LRPC staff in our workplace, please note that we would be glad to arrange a mutually convenient time for you to meet with us. July 19 was not such a time. Please contact me if you would like to arrange a meeting in the future.

Our attorney has advised us that we are not required to consent to your request to record an informal, non-public meeting, and we do not agree with your request to record any such meeting. However, you may record any of our many public meetings, without disturbing the participation of other attendees. Our next public meeting is scheduled on July 25 at 7:00 pm in the Danbury Town Hall.

Please find attached answers to the questions in your email dated Sunday, July 7, 2013.

Sincerely,

Kimon Koulet
Executive Director

KK/rg

Enc.

Cc: Alison M. Minutelli, Esq.

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Dear Mr. Carter,

Please find below answers to the questions posed in your email to Jerry Coogan, LRPC GSF Project Manager, dated Sunday, July 7, 2013.

Question: "I was at this page of the GSF website:

http://granitestatefuture.org/regions/lakes-region/

It seems you're the point man for this initiative here in the Lakes Region.

I tried to get to the meeting in Laconia, but couldn't.

I'd like to know all about the plans for all upcoming GSF meetings. Times, places, proposed agenda, etc. There's absolutely nothing showing up on the events calendar at the website.
http://granitestatefuture.org/get-involved/events-calendar/

Secondly, can you tell me why these meetings are not advertised in all the local papers? They have event calendars and offer listings at no charge?"

Answer: Public meetings convened by the LRPC are posted in at least two public places. We can ensure that they are posted online on the Commission's web site: www.lakesrpc.org. We also make regular use of the bulletin board in the first floor lobby of the Humiston Building, and we often issue press releases. We have posted public meetings on the GSF web site in the past and will continue to do so.

Question: "I'd also like to know - as I looked at the agenda for the Laconia meeting - why was there only 5 minutes allowed for public input? That's not nearly enough time to answer questions from members of the public that want to know about the issues being discussed.
Please don't tell me that the public input is supposed to come from the Listening sessions run by NH Listens. Those are not forums where you can ask pointed questions to those like you who work for the Regional Planning Commissions. The only questions you could ask in that venue were to others in your discussion cell - many of which were ordinary citizens."

Answer: Public meetings are different from public hearings. Anyone may attend, take notes, record, and photograph a public meeting. Anyone may also attend a public hearing, where one may offer comments, take notes, record, and photograph the public hearing. The key difference is that the

public has no guaranteed right to speak at a public meeting, but may be provided an opportunity to do so. The Chair normally determines the time available, if any, for public comment at a public meeting.

Questions: "How do citizens get detailed answers from members of the Regional Planning Commissions about Granite State Future? What's the exact process?"

Answer: As we have already often responded when asked this question in the past, a very comprehensive way to obtain information about A Granite State Future is to visit the www.granitestatefuture.org web site. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission, on behalf of all regional planning commissions in the state, hosts this website.

Since the summer of 2012, the LRPC has attended several public events providing opportunities to talk about the GSF and the upcoming Lakes Region Plan, convened an Open House, and coordinated a large gathering in Laconia to receive public input about what is important for the long-range future of this special place. In the future, the LRPC shall be convening public meetings of the Lakes Region Plan Advisory Committee and the Commission where updates on the draft regional plan may be presented, and where opportunities for public comment may be provided. Further, LRPC staff is available to meet in our workplace at mutually convenient times for informal conversations about any planning topic. One may also submit written questions, which shall be answered within a reasonable amount of time.

Sincerely,

Gerald Coogan, AICP
Project Manager, GSF/Lakes Region Plan

Cc: Kimon Koulet, Executive Director