

ARTICLE VIII: STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

Section A: Appointment - The Council may employ an Executive Director, other staff, and such consultants as it may from time to time determine. The Executive Committee may nominate a search committee in the event of a vacancy in the Executive Director position. The Executive Director shall be appointed by a two-thirds majority vote of the representatives of the total membership of the Council. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the recruitment of other staff, in accordance with the Personnel Policies of the Council. Consultants shall be engaged by a majority vote at a Council meeting when a quorum is present. The recruitment and hiring of staff shall be conducted in accordance with the Council's Affirmative Action Program.

The Executive Director's contract shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee at the end of each contract period and referred to the representatives of the Council for approval after Executive Committee approval. If there is a delay in review of the Director's contract, the Executive Director shall remain employed until such review can be conducted.

Section B: Removal – The Executive Director is an at-will employee and serves at the pleasure of the Council. The Council may demote or remove the Executive Director by a two-thirds majority vote of the representatives of the total membership of the Council. The Executive Director may discipline staff members up to a 10-day suspension and recommend to the Executive Committee more serious discipline.

Section C: Duties and Responsibilities - The Executive Director shall be the primary staff to the Council and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the LCRVCOG. He/she shall submit an annual work plan to the council and shall be responsible for the administration of the Council's affairs placed in his/her charge under these bylaws, under the Council's Personnel Policies, or as may be determined from time to time by vote of the Council. The duties of other staff members shall be defined generally by the provisions of the Council's Personnel Policies, with specific duties to be determined by the Executive Director.

ARTICLE IX: LEGAL COUNSEL

Section A: A legal counsel may be employed as needed, in a manner prescribed by the Council, to advise and represent the LCRVCOG.

ARTICLE X: REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Section A: Powers and Duties - The Regional Planning Committee, acting as a working standing committee of the Council, shall meet as needed to review the voluntary process for pre-application review of proposed projects of regional significance as required by Public Act No. 09-165, and forward those recommendations to the Council for action.

“Proposed project of regional significance” means a proposed project, to be built by a private developer, that is an open air theater, shopping center or other development that is planned to create more than (A) five hundred thousand square feet of indoor commercial or industrial space, (B) two hundred fifty residential housing units in structures under four stories, or (C) one thousand parking spaces. The Regional Planning Committee shall also advise the Council on planning matters including but not limited to the development, updates, and amendments of the Regional Plan of Conservation and Development, when so requested by the Council. The Council may take action on any and all statutorily required referrals or plans without benefit of Committee recommendations.

The Regional Planning Committee may review all other referrals to the Council required by statute, including 8-3b Referral of zone changes, abutting municipalities; 8-26b Referral of subdivisions, abutting municipalities; 8-35a Regional Plan of Development; 8-35b; Recommendations for inter-municipal arrangements; 8-35c Municipal Feasibility Studies upon request; 8-35d Referral of proposed inter-local agreements and formation of districts; 8-35e Interagency committees and staff sharing; 8-191 Referral of Municipal Project Plans; Section 8-23 Referral of Local Plans of Conservation and Development and Section 22a-102 Referral of Local Plans of Conservation and Development with Municipal Coastal Plans.

Section B: Membership and Representation – The Council shall appoint two members from the Council to serve as liaisons to the Regional Planning Committee and attend Committee meetings. Each member municipality shall be entitled to one Representative to the Regional Planning Committee who shall be an elector of such member. Such representative shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen or Council. Each member may also appoint an alternate representative who shall be an elector of such member and who shall be appointed by its planning commission or planning and zoning commission, with the concurrence of the appointing authority of such member. Such alternate representative shall, when the representative of the member from which he or she was appointed is absent, have all the powers and duties of such representative.

Section C: Meeting of the Committee

- (a) Meetings of the Committee shall be held on a regular basis at a time and place to be determined by the Committee and the agenda for such meetings shall be emailed or mailed to Representatives, Alternates, and Municipal Clerks and members of the Council as statutorily required.
- (b) An Annual Meeting of the Committee shall be held for the purpose of electing officers and conducting any other business of the Committee. The agenda for such meetings shall be emailed or mailed to Representatives, Alternates, and Municipal Clerks and members of the Council at least five (5) days prior to such meeting.
- (c) Special meetings may be held for the purpose of conducting reviews of proposed

projects of regional significance and for other matters the Committee may take up, at a time and place specified in the Call of the Meeting. A 24-hour advanced notice must be provided by filing the notice of the Special Meeting with the Clerk of each member municipality.

- (d) Emergency meetings may be held at the call of the Committee or Chair without filing advance notice of the meeting. However, the minutes of the meeting, including the reason for the emergency meeting, must be filed within 72 hours of the meeting with the Clerk of each member municipality.
- (e) The schedule of regular meetings for the ensuing calendar year shall be filed with the Clerk of each member municipality not later than January 31, of each year. Each representative and alternate shall be emailed or mailed a notice and agenda of each meeting post-marked at least five days in advance of the meeting date.
- (f) The conduct of the Committee's meetings shall be by Robert's Rules of Order.

Section D: Quorum – A simple majority of the full membership or their designated Alternates shall constitute a quorum.

Section E: Action of the Committee - Action of the Committee shall be by majority vote of those Representatives or their designated Alternates present; such recommendations and/or plans shall then be submitted to the Council, which may ratify, reject, amend, or refer them back to the Committee for further consideration.

Section F: Officers - Officers of the Committee shall be duly appointed Representatives and shall include a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary, to be elected by a majority of the Committee, Representatives or their alternates present. The Officers shall perform all duties related to their particular offices. The Officers shall serve for one year with new officers to be elected once a year at the Annual meeting of the Committee in the calendar year. As a Representative on the Committee, the Chair shall have the right to vote on all matters that come before the Committee

ARTICLE XI: REGIONAL HOUSING COMMITTEE

Section A: Purpose and Intent - It is the purpose of this section to create a Regional Housing Committee as a step toward implementing the recommendations of the Regional Housing Plan, adopted on July 27, 2022. The Regional Housing Committee is intended to provide a forum for ongoing coordination and collaboration on housing issues between member municipalities with the goal of improving housing diversity and opportunity in the region. Key functions of the Committee will include the provision of resources and education materials for existing and potential residents, commissioners, developers, and landlords; partnership and engagement efforts with non-profits, private sector developers, and federal, state, and local officials; ongoing analysis of housing needs and recommendations to address those needs; and continued monitoring of