

“RPC Representative: Appoint Ray Tweedie to replace Tom McCormick”
(*Planning Board agenda, April 9, 2019*)

A synopsis provided by RCL:

**APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES FOR COMMISSIONER
REPRESENTATION TO THE ROCKINGHAM PLANNING
COMMISSION (RPC)**

As governed by RSA 36:46-III, Commissioners are appointed by Selectmen for four year terms (except when more than one position is filled at once in which case the terms are staggered).

The Planning Board nominates a representative commissioner for consideration by the Selectmen and the Selectmen make the appointment.

When a representative resigns, the Commission shall be notified in writing. (*rpc-nh.org*) <http://www.rpc-nh.org/commission/commissioners-2>

Rye is entitled to have 2 representatives to the RPC. Selectman Phil Winslow has been a representative to the RPC since 2013. His term expires in July 2021. Due to his many commitments as a Selectman, Phil Winslow finds it difficult to attend the RPC monthly meetings (10 per year). In addition to the regular monthly meetings, an Executive Committee meets monthly and other Committees meet on average four times per year (Legislative Policy Committee; Regional Impact Committee; and a Regional Master Plan Committee). Some of the Commissioners serve on more than one Committee; however, Rye doesn't have a representative serving on any of the Committees.

Elected on the Rye Planning Board in March 2015, Tom McCormick resigned for medical reasons in July 2016. He was appointed as a representative to the RPC in May 2015, however, due to medical issues, he was unable to attend meetings and fulfill his duties as a representative. Even though the Town of Rye was aware that Tom McCormick was unable to attend meetings “and never attended a meeting” as a RPC representative (as per Kim Reed's statement), no action was taken to replace him until recently -- his term expires on May 2019.

At the April 9th Planning Board meeting, in collaboration with Planning and Zoning Administrator, Kim Reed, Select board representative Bill Epperson recommended the appointment of former Planning Board member, Ray Tweedie, as a representative to the RPC to “replace” Tom McCormick. A member of the public voiced his concerns regarding the appointment of Ray Tweedie, citing, among others, the candidate “swinging his ideology like a sledgehammer” and his being “deceitful.” In short, he stated with urgency that somebody else should be recommended for the position.

A motion by member Jeff Quinn seconded by member Jerry Gittlein to recommend Ray Tweedie’s appointment to the BOS as a RPC representative failed to pass. 2 members voted against and 3 members abstained.

Members cited a lack of knowledge in regards to “the workings of the RPC” as a reason for abstaining. During the discussion, Select board representative Bill Epperson stated: “I don’t think they [RPC representatives] have a lot of input. It’s more taking in as opposed to giving out.” As a rule, board members felt they needed to get a better understanding of the role and duties of a RPC representative.

See RCL’s article to learn about the role and duties of a RPC representative/regional planning commissioner and “the workings of the RPC.” [Click Here](#) on RPC role and process

At the April 10th 2012 Planning Board meeting, members denied Victor Azzi’s re-appointment as a Commissioner/Representative to the RPC. According to the minutes, members went into a Non-Public Session (Reputation) to conduct their business [and vote] – minutes were sealed – prior to denying Victor Azzi’s re-appointment. As a reason for declining Victor Azzi’s re-appointment, Chairman Epperson stated: “ the Planning Board has an open policy and is considering someone else for the position. The Board has decided to decline his re-nomination to the Rockingham Planning Commission at this time” (*Planning Board minutes, April 10th 2012, p.3*)

After the termination of Victor Azzi’s appointment to the RPC, the Town appointed Keriann Roman. At the May 8th 2012 Planning Board meeting, the Planning Board nominated alternate member Keriann Roman as “the number two representative to the RPC.” Robert Brown was the other representative.

At the January 8th 2013 Planning Board meeting, Chair Bill Epperson stated that Robert Brown would no longer be able to be RPC Commissioner /Representative for the Town. His position will have to be filled stating that Keriann Roman was the second representative. The RCL is including all the discussion that took place as members voiced their opinion of the RPC. This includes Planning Board member Ray Tweedie's statements and reflects his ideology, somewhat incompatible with the mission of the RPC.

Member Roman stated that the Town pays fees to be involved with RPC. She is unsure if it is worth it. The fee is almost \$6,000. She continued that she has sought help from the RPC in the past, on planning issues, as a member of the Town of Rye. They were too busy to give any guidance. She has been to two meetings. It seems like a lot of people get together and just talk. She does not want to recommend that the Town "pull out" of something that is beneficial. She would like it to be noted that she is not sure what this commission gives to the Town. She may need more time to decide that. She also recommended that the person who is appointed to the commission be someone who is retired or stays at home. The meetings can be long and there are many different meetings. If the Town is going to be a part of this, it is important that the representatives can work together to cover as many meetings as possible.

Member Tweedie stated that he has reservations about RPC, Agenda 21 and the regional pooling of resources and assets. In trying to get help with his section of the Master Plan, considering the dues, he has gotten "lip service" and a giant report that he could not understand. He thinks \$6,000 is a nice "chunk" of money that other things can be done with. There are lots of other things that money can be put towards. He does not see the reasoning behind it. A lot of the Agenda 21 stuff coming out is really the taking of property rights for the collective good of some other larger group. He stated they need to be worried about the Town of Rye and what happens here.

Chairman Epperson asked where if the Agenda 21 comes out of the RPC.

Member Tweedie commented he read a book about how all that stuff is done. It is all about the collective rights and regional planning. They talk about zoning and trying to create some central entity. The problem is all of

these folks are appointed. None of them are elected. The Town pays dues to this group.

Chairman Epperson commented their decisions are not binding on the Town. It is better to be there and know what they are talking about, as opposed to, having them come out of the clear blue and say “you have to”.

Member Tweedie pointed out those are public meetings. The Town does not have to pay the dues to attend the public meeting. The Town is giving their rights to these folks. They raise money from the towns and get money from federal entities. He has an issue with that.

Chairman Epperson agreed. What concerns him with the Master Plan is that there are a lot of things in there that sound like Agenda 21. He pointed out that he has read the books too. For example, sidewalks, bikeways, scenic roads and retail establishments underneath apartments, all sound like Agenda 21. He would like it noted that in no way shape or form has the Planning Board been influenced; nor has the Planning Board had any documentation, or anyone speak to them, about anything that has to do with Agenda 21. The Board is independent and makes decisions based on the good of the Town.

Member Gittlein agreed. • The Board will seek a representative to the RPC – Anyone who is interested may contact the Planning Board for further details and information. An interested party will need to be recommended to the Selectmen by the Board Members. The Selectmen make the appointment to the RPC (*Planning Board minutes, January 8th, 2013, p. 10-11*).