

Western Massachusetts Casino Task Force Meeting

MINUTES – December 19, 2007
MONSON FREE LIBRARY

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edward Harrison, with the following Task Force members present:

- A. 1. Attendance:
- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Belchertown | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gerry Grasso | <input type="checkbox"/> | Michael Reardon |
| Brimfield | <input type="checkbox"/> | Diane Panaccione | <input type="checkbox"/> | Carol DeNegro |
| Hampden | <input type="checkbox"/> | John D. Flynn | <input type="checkbox"/> | Richard R. Green |
| Holland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lynn Arnold | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Raymond P. Korny |
| Ludlow | <input type="checkbox"/> | Darlene Cincone | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mike Szlosek |
| Monson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Edward S. Harrison | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Kathleen C. Norbut |
| Palmer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | David E. Whitney | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Paul Burns |
| Sturbridge | <input type="checkbox"/> | Arnold Wilson | <input type="checkbox"/> | Steve Halterman |
| Ware | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gerald Matta | <input type="checkbox"/> | Steven Boudreau |
| Warren | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bob Souza | | |
| Wilbraham | <input type="checkbox"/> | John Pearsall | <input type="checkbox"/> | Robert Weitz |
-
2. Pioneer Valley Planning Commission:
- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Timothy W. Brennan | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | James M. Mazik | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
-
3. Others:
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Ted Goodwin, Sturbridge Selectman | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Allen Stratton, Wilbraham Police Chief | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |

As there was lack of a quorum for a meeting, no official actions or votes were taken.

SECTION I: MINUTES

None

Motion 2nd For Opp. Abs.

SECTION II: GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Form of Quorum.

After a brief discussion, the general consensus was to vote on the quorum requirements at the next meeting. It was felt that representation from 6 of the 11 member Western Massachusetts Casino Task Force (WMCaT) communities would constitute a quorum.

2. A general discussion was held on the content of Sections 1-6. The following major concerns were noted:

- a) The application process for a casino gaming license provided very little local review and input.
- b) There is a need for increased regional representation on the proposed gaming commission.

SECTION II: Continued

c) A clearer and consistent definition of region and impact area needs to be formulated and consistently applied throughout the legislation. Current language is inconsistent with references such as region, contiguous, surrounding, adjoining, etc. used throughout in similar instances.

d) No clear, substantive and objective criteria exists for the evaluation of applicants proposals. Study requirements, minimum acceptance levels and the provision for local review must be provided.

e) Overall the legislation reflects a lack of local representation, lack of transparency and a lack of independent studies.

f) The relationship to the MEPA review process was also discussed, including: how the impact evaluation will be assessed; consistency with the MEPA format; and similarity of standards and thresholds. It was also questioned what the implications would be if a local permitting authority denied a local permit (preventing or impacting casino construction) but a state gaming license had already been issued to the developer.

SECTION III: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1. None.

SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS

- 1. No Action.

SECTION V: ACTION ITEMS

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Abs.</u>
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					

Meeting adjourned: 8:15 p.m.

MOTION: _____
SECOND: _____
VOTE: _____
OPPOSED: _____