



MARPPA

Massachusetts Association of
Regional Planning Agencies

Regional Planning Agency Day

Requesting:

\$3.4 million for the **District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)** program

\$2 million for the **Grant Assistance Program (GAP)**

Within line item **1599-0026**



House Champion

Representative
Paul Donato



**Senate
Champion**

Senator

Jamie

Eldridge



Linda Dunlavy

**Executive Director
Franklin Regional Council of
Governments (FRCOG)**

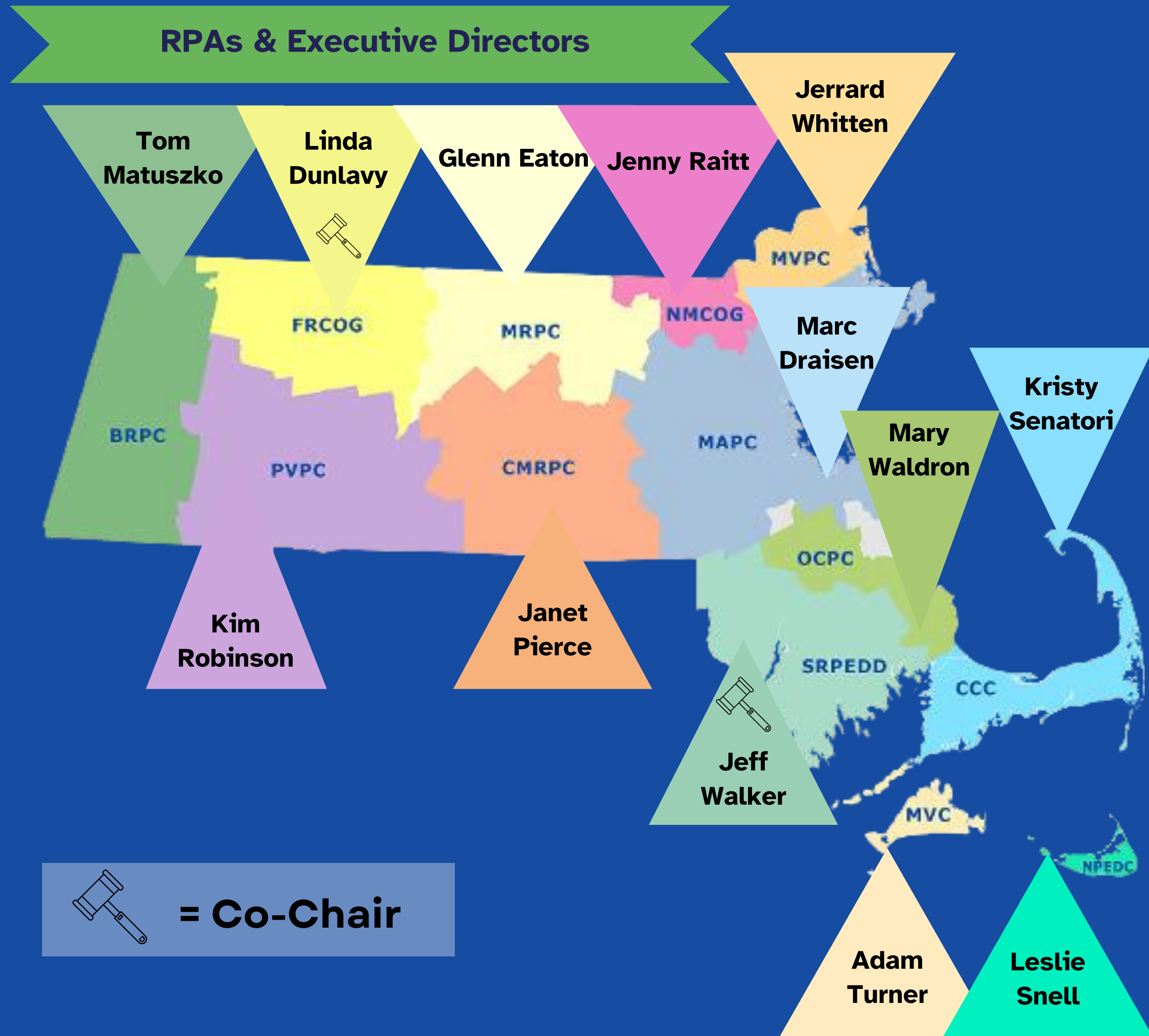


**Franklin Regional
Council of Governments**

Who is MARPA?

The **Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies** (MARPA) is the statewide organization representing the Commonwealth's **13 Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs)**.

MARPA works on projects, and advocates for policies that promote efficiency and reduce municipal financial burdens through regionalism in Massachusetts.



RPAs and Your Community

- **Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) provide technical assistance and support to all 351 of the Commonwealth's cities and towns.**
- **RPAs work with communities to deliver effective and efficient municipal services, to collaborate across municipal and regional boundaries, and to implement planning best practices.**
- **RPAs are here to support your communities as they develop and implement solutions to their most pressing challenges, from housing and transportation to economic development, public health and beyond.**



Call to Action: Support permanent remote and hybrid meeting flexibilities before the March 31 expiration

Please Support: HD.2863 and SD.1850 - *An Act to modernize municipal meetings, town meetings, and local elections* filed by Representative Gregoire and Senator Oliviera

What it does: Codifies current hybrid and remote meeting flexibilities that have been in place since 2020 and extended multiple times.

Why it is Needed:

- Increases participation in public meetings
- Does not require costly municipal investments in new infrastructure or staff
- Allows for more flexibility for municipal staff





Jeffrey Walker

Executive Director

Southeastern Regional Planning and
Economic Development District
(SRPEDD)



SRPEDD

Southeastern Regional Planning
& Economic Development District

What is DLTA?

- **District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA)** directly funds technical assistance for cities and towns on projects they can't take on alone.
- DLTA is uniquely flexible - supporting planning and implementation projects from zoning and housing production to economic development, resiliency and more.
- Communities use DLTA to unlock funding opportunities, and move forward state laws and initiatives like:
 - **Roadmap Law:** climate action plans, municipal energy aggregation, EV planning
 - **SAPHE Act:** support regional public health collaboratives
 - **Housing Choice:** Housing Production Plans, Housing Needs Assessments



What is GAP?

- The Grant Assistance Program (GAP) allows RPAs to support communities' applications for state grants and generational federal funding.
- Many communities struggle to take advantage of state and federal funding because of a lack of capacity. GAP provides that capacity, also supporting more efficient & competitive regional funding applications.
- Outcomes:
 - \$45K - MAPC, SRPEDD and CMRPC's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant application, opened the door to \$10-200 million in federal funding
 - \$20K - MAPC, Boston, Newton, Everett, and Cambridge application for PRO Housing grant resulted in \$3 million in federal funding.

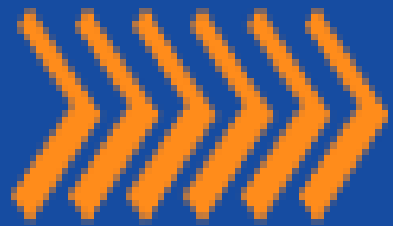




Kimberly H. Robinson

Executive Director

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
(PVPC)



Catalyst for Regional Progress

PVPC

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

A Regional Economic Engine

\$5,375

Each \$1 a member community pays in assessments results in \$5,375 of economic activity in the region.

\$83

For each \$1 in grants and awards PVPC receives, \$83 of economic activity is created in the region.

**\$629
million**

of economic value is created annually in the Pioneer Valley due to PVPC's direct actions and/or from programs we oversee and enable.

2,200

jobs are created and supported annually by PVPC's activities.



Williamsburg MA

- \$10,000 in DLTA funds for visioning for a master plan
- \$149,000 from One Stop application and \$15,000 investment from the Town
- \$164,000 total for complete comprehensive plan
- Every \$1 in DLTA leveraged \$16.40 in other funds



Tom Matuszko

Executive Director

**Berkshire Regional Planning
Commission (BRPC)**



Housing Initiatives

PLANNING FOCUSED PROJECTS

- Housing Needs Assessment/Action Plan – Towns of Monterey and New Marlborough
- Housing Production Plan – Town of Egremont
- Housing Action Plan/Production Plan Implementation – Town of Sheffield
- Zoning/ADUs - Towns of Peru, Washington, West Stockbridge; City of Pittsfield



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOCUSED PROJECTS

- CDBG Housing Rehab Programs – Towns of Becket, Dalton, and Sheffield
- Home Modification Loan Program - Countywide



CDBG Housing Rehabilitation - before



CDBG Housing Rehabilitation - after

Outdoor Recreation

COUNTY-WIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (2020)

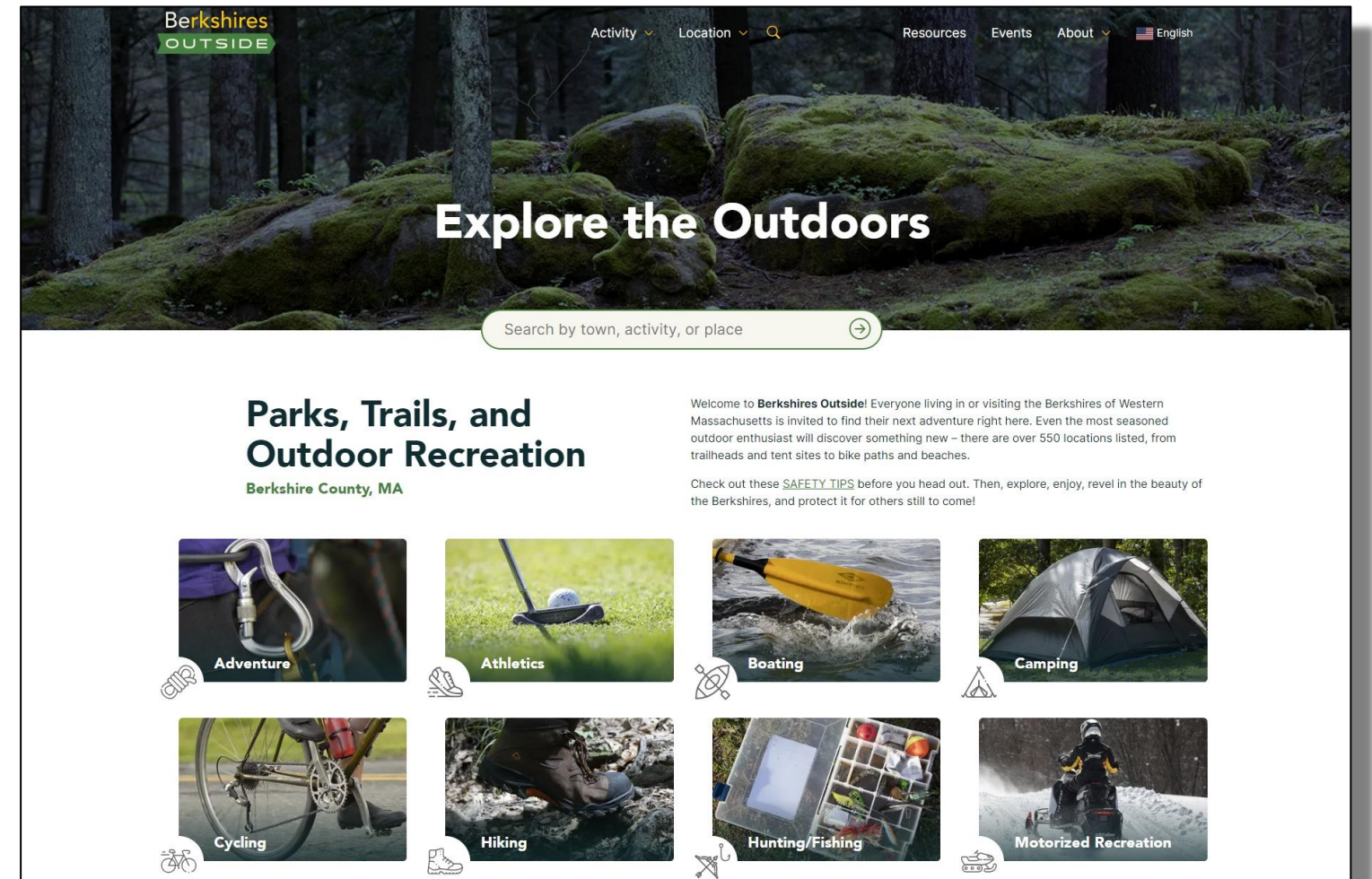
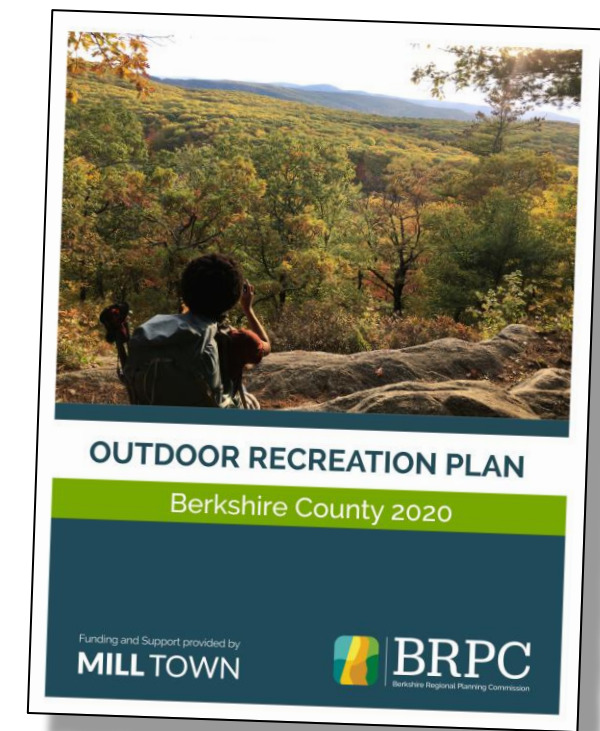
Key findings included:

- Outdoor Recreation a strong selling point for both tourism and attracting new residents
- Some sites are overused, while many more are "hidden gems"
- User conflict made worse due to lack of clarity – what's allowed at what location?
- No central source of information available...

COUNTY-WIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION WEBSITE LAUNCHED 2024

- Over 77,000 users in year one, 103,000+ sessions
- Searchable by activity, town, or site
- 12 activity categories (and growing!)
- Filters to narrow your search: accessibility, free, dogs allowed, low visitation, etc.

Working closely with the Mass. Office of Outdoor Recreation (MOOR) to develop a statewide version inspired by Berkshires Outside.



www.berkshiresoutside.org launched January 1, 2024

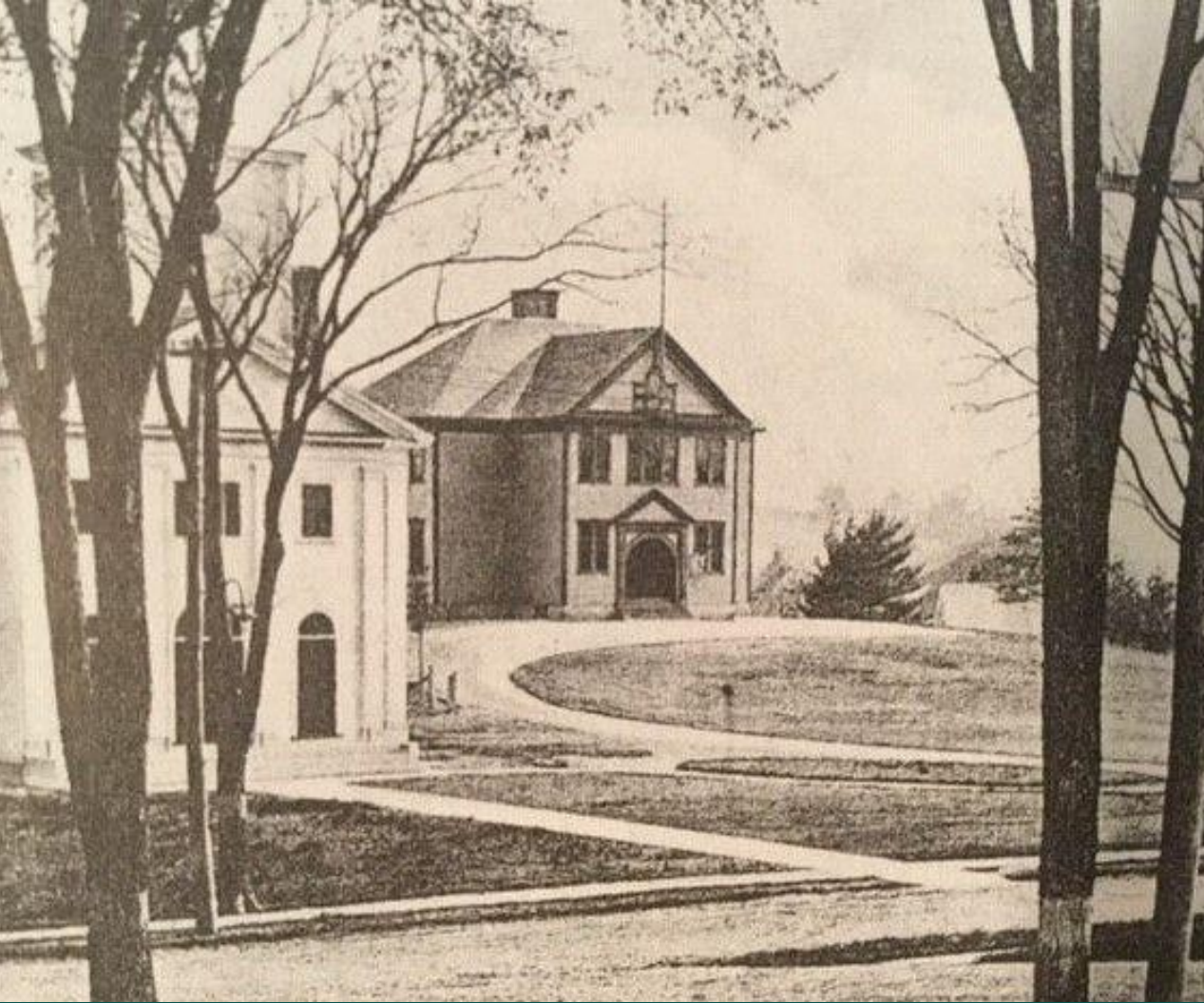


Kelly Lynema

Deputy Director

**Northern Middlesex
Council of Governments
(NMCOG)**





DLTA

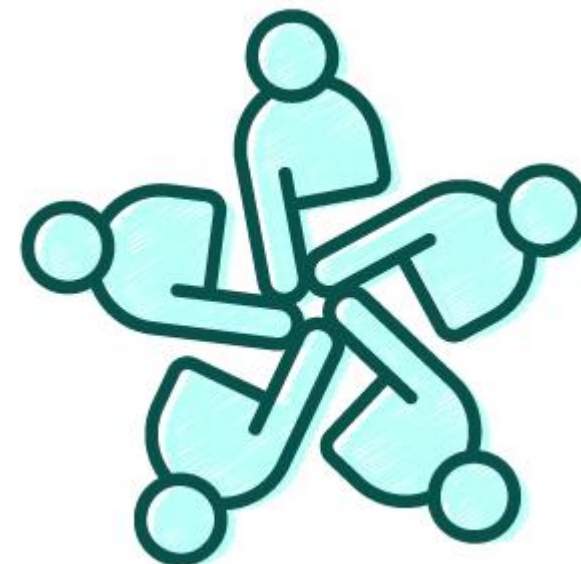
Fostering Economic
Development through
Historic Preservation

Dunstable Union Building

From community visioning process to exterior and interior
renovation and preservation funding

Supporting Regionalization

Northern Middlesex Regional Housing Services Organization



2022

Planners and
Municipal CEOs
Meetings

2023

Regional
Housing
Workgroup

2024

Community
Compact
Grant

2025

Regional
Housing
Services
Organization



Joanne Zygmunt

**Senior Planner with the
Comprehensive & Sustainability**

Department

Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)



OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL



LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

HOW WE SUPPORT MUNICIPALITIES

OCPC has been collaborating with municipalities to help ensure communities are livable for all. An Age and Dementia Friendly Community supports people of all ages and is committed to improving the quality of life for the very young, the very old, and everyone in between.

We help our communities by:

- Achieving AARP designation and join the Age & Dementia Friendly America movement
- Establishing Age & Dementia Friendly Committees
- Developing Livable for All Action Plans
- Raising funds to support planning and implementation
- Harnessing volunteer power and encourage civic engagement



ACTIVE COMMUNITIES IN OUR REGION

Municipality	Designated Age Friendly	Pledged Dementia Friendly
Avon		✓
Brockton	✓	
Duxbury*	✓	✓
Easton*	✓	
Kingston*	PENDING	
Plymouth	✓	✓

**Projects completed with OCPC*

TAKING ACTION



are leading initiatives in Duxbury to improve housing, transportation, information and communications, and mental health for all

Plymouth will soon have age-friendly and dementia-friendly



for community recognition and local business partnership pledges

Kingston received a



to launch planning efforts in their community

**AN AGE AND DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY IS INCLUSIVE.
It is a great place for one to grow up and grow old in.**





Lizzi Weyant

Deputy Executive Director

**Metropolitan Area Planning Council
(MAPPC)**



THANK YOU!

Stick around to learn more about how DLTA & GAP
help your district!

Please support:

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\$2 million for GAP

within item **1599-0026**