

November 19, 2020

City of Berlin
168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570
Pamela Laflamme, Community Development Director
City Council

Dear City Council:

The North Country Council recognizes and understands the ever-changing challenges facing our communities during this pandemic, and we are learning daily how to best provide support and resources. During these challenging times the Council's priority remains in providing land use, transportation, environmental and economic development planning services to the Town of Berlin and the region. Knowing that we are all in this together we have made the decision to reduce the membership dues for 2021 by 5% of the 2020 dues rate.

On October 29, 2020 the Commissioners appointed by the Member Municipalities of North Country Council passed the budget for fiscal year 2021. The membership dues for 2021 were set through this process. The Town of Berlin membership dues are \$8,535 for the period of January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021. *Formal invoices will be sent out in December of 2020.*

Membership dues are based upon the same methodology that the Council has used in previous years. Adjustments are typically a result of changes in population and valuation however this year these number have remained the same (as a result of holding 2020 and reducing by 5% the 2020 rate).

Methodology (based on 2018 DRA Valuation and 2010 Census Population Data)

- Municipalities' percent of total regional valuation.
Municipality valuation *Divided By* total valuation of all municipalities.
- Municipalities' percent of total region's population.
Municipality population *Divided By* total region population.
- Municipalities percent of regional valuation
Municipality's percent of region's population *Plus* Municipalities percent of regions valuation *Divided By 2*

Region Population	Total Region Valuation
83,609.00	\$10,776,624,760

Town of Berlin						
Total Population	2018 DRA Valuation	Percent of Population	Percent of Valuation	Percent of Regional Dues	2020 Membership Dues Invoiced 12/2019	2021 Membership Dues reduction of 5% to be Invoiced 12/2020
10,051	\$276,315,375	12.02%	2.56%	7.29%	\$8,985	\$8,535

The support of the regions communities through participation and dues are a vital resource for the following:

- In the Fiscal Year 2021 Municipal and County Dues are enabling the Council to leverage more than \$250,000 in federal and other resources that will provide services to local projects throughout the region. Without dues, programs would not have sufficient matching resources to be available to the region.
- Dues allow the Council to be available for technical assistance for; inquiries regarding new legislation, land use boards, other board procedural assistance, and demographic research, funding and training source notifications, ordinance and local regulation assistance and facilitating conversations in community decision-making.
- Dues allow the Council to provide support to communities in the form of trainings, workshops and bring resources into the region.

We look forward to another year serving as a resource for the region its communities and partners, providing professional economic development, community, regional, transportation, and environmental planning services to meet your needs.

We would be happy to meet with your Community to discuss what is important to you and what service the North Country Council might provide.



Sincerely,
Michelle Moren-Grey
Executive Director

cc: North Country Council Commissioner



2020 Annual Report

North Country Council Regional Planning Commission & Economic Development District

North Country Council Regional Planning Commission and Economic Development District is one of nine regional planning commissions in New Hampshire established by RSA 36:46. The Commission's region consists of serving 50 communities and 25 unincorporated places in the northern third of New Hampshire. The Council serves in an advisory role to local governments in order to promote coordinated planning, orderly growth, efficient land use, transportation access, and environmental protection. The Council's professional staff provides transportation, land use, economic development, community and environmental planning services; geographic information services (GIS); data collection and analysis; grant writing; grant administration; facilitation; and project management.

To date in 2020, North Country Council undertook the following activities:

- Completed stream culvert assessments in Hart's Location as part of a Saco River watershed project which aims to better understand flood vulnerability and aquatic habitat barriers.
- Facilitated four meetings of the North Country Council Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) to discuss regional transportation issues and identify priority projects for funding opportunities, including the Ten-Year Plan.
- Supported the work of two Regional Coordinating Councils (Carroll County and Grafton-Coos) to promote coordination of transportation services for the region's residents, including facilitating six RCC meetings, updating service directories, and assisting with federal grant applications to support transportation services for senior and limited-mobility residents.
- Represented the transportation needs of the region in the Ten-Year Plan process, including participation in public hearings and promoting public input opportunities to the region's communities.
- Supported the work of the North Country Scenic Byways Council (NCSBC) to steward and promote the region's many scenic and cultural byways, including facilitating two NCSBC meetings and developed a website to provide information on scenic touring along the byways.
- Represented the region as an at-large member to the NH Complete Streets Advisory Committee, providing a regional perspective on the development of the NH Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan.
- Continued the effort to develop an updated Regional Transportation Plan, which will identify the transportation-related needs, and opportunities of the region in the support of the development of transportation projects and reference for communities.
- Completed over 150 traffic counts to meet federal requirements and provide up-to-date information on traffic volumes across the region.
- Supported and participated in the White Mountain National Forest Alternative Transportation Working Group to address issues of overflow parking and promote safe transportation access to National Forest destinations.
- Created Community Profiles which provide demographic data on each community that include travel patterns, income, education, natural resources.
- Created community planning guidance documents to support local efforts in their transportation planning tasks.
- Provided mapping and data services to communities throughout the region in support of project development and funding opportunities.
- Responded to multiple request for reviews of Development of Regional Impact, prepared comments corresponded with state and local officials.
- Continued to assist Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) in providing development assistance to potential and awarded grantees. In 2020 the Council provided pre-project development coaching to over 15 potential NBRC grantees.
- Convened three full Commission meetings and facilitated discussions on – Solid Waste in the North Country, Broadband 101 and Forest Society North.
- Participated in local, state and regional level in initiatives (3-6) of various topics: housing, land use regulations, workforce development, economic resiliency and the outdoor economy.
- Provided technical support to communities relating to municipal land use regulations, best practices and planning opportunities.
- Assisted Coos County with the newly formed and ongoing Broadband Committee to better understand and implement broadband networks in under and unserved areas of Coos.
- Collaborated with other Regional Planning Commission's through the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions and Director meetings in Concord.
- Supported efforts and attended the NH Planners Conference and NH Municipal Association Conference.

- Bulk ordered and distributed New Hampshire Planning and Land Use Regulation books to local land use boards (estimated savings of \$70.00 per book).
- Continued the efforts of the North County Council Brownfield Program through funding from the United States Environmental protection Agency (EPA).
- Updated the North Country Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Economic Development District.
- Staff attended over 15 workshops, info sessions to increase Council capacity to better serve communities.
- Responded to various requests from communities for technical assistance and data research.
- Hosted four Solid Waste Roundtable for municipal officials and transfer station operators.
- Facilitates two household hazardous waste drop off day removing 2,235 gallons of hazardous material from the waste stream.