

Government Affairs Committee, Chair Franz Forster

I. Committee Members:

- Franz Forster (Chair), Sandy Carroll, Thomas Doyle, Alan Marden, Sue O'Brien, Steve Ray, Maureen McFarland, Mary Jane White, Debbie Dwyer, Billy Keane, Doreen Coones, Gladys Montgomery, Barbara Osborne, Mary Jane Dunlop.

II. MAR State Political Coordinators Manual (SPC):

- The Board of Directors adopted the MAR State Political Coordinators Manual as submitted by the Massachusetts Association of REALTORS, with local provisions for the recommendation of Berkshire State Political Coordinators and the process for submitting them for consideration. [Manual and Application Here](#)



III. Disclosure Issues for Berkshire REALTORS

- Make sure you understand how to properly disclose the PCB issues, or pipeline, with this helpful Q&A with Ashley Stolba: [Disclosure Recap Here](#)

IV. Recap of Local Events:

- **Legislative Luncheon:** Friday, June 10th @ 11:00 a.m., 91 attendees. Included State Senate Candidate Presentations, NAR Liaison Kevin Sears and local town officials. [Recap post with Photos](#)
- **REALTOR Day On Beacon Hill**, 10 attendees met with Berkshire legislators in Boston. [Report and Photos](#)
- **Meeting with Congressman Richie Neal**, 4 Attendees [Report and Photos](#)

V. Calls to Action / RPAC: Recap of Berkshire Involvement

- NAR Call on 12/7/15: gFees for Transportation: **17.18% Responded** | Outcome: SUCCESS!
- NAR Call on 6/13/16: Condo Financing: **13.8% Responded** | Outcome: SUCCESS!
- MAR Call on 6/6/16: Zoning and Land Development (1 day): **7.8% Responded** | Outcome FAIL!
- MAR Call on 6/28/16: Energy Scoring: **11.51% Responded** | Outcome FAIL!
- MAR Call to Energy Committee: **27% Responded** (state Average 13%) | Outcome Success
- MAR Call on 7/14/16: Conference Committee: **26 % Responded** | Outcome Unknown
- Rec'd cc of **6 personalized letters**. Rec'd call about Realtor Position: **1 call** (recording)
- June 2016: **\$123 short of goal**, (\$6,764 to-date). Participation goal, 131, we're at 209, 2 Major investors.

VI. Local Issues: The Board of REALTORS Responsibilities and Scope of Involvement

- Update on Broadband Last Mile Task Force Chaired by Peter Larkin / Bill Eninan (verbal update)

- Update on 'No PCB Dumps': Our role is to continue to educate members on any status updates and events planned and disclosure issues. Also to be aware that negative press can stigmatize areas without definitive plans in place for dredging or dumping.
- Update on Pipeline Issues: Connecticut Expansion Project: Continue to educate members on the locations and disclosure issues.
- Other Issues: Economic vitality is critical to the Berkshires. Tom Doyle is working with Smitty to bring incentives to businesses for moving to Berkshire County, without a lot of action as of yet. Gailann Cariddi held a brainstorming forum earlier this month with only her constituents to discuss this issue as well. It was noted that 1Berkshire has also formed a formal collaborative where the economic development is now a committee of the whole.

VII. Local Outreach & Connections

- Contacted all towns with Right to Farm procedures. Successful Outcome
- Meeting: Mayor Alcombright and Hoosic River Restoration. July 26th @ 9:30 Town Hall
- Berkshire Broadband Distributed from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission