

Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County
Approved
Wednesday, July 18, 20 18 Meeting Minutes

Name/Organization

Voting Members

Troy Fischer, Chair, Regional Center Partnership (RCP)
Jason Dameo, Vice-Chair, RCP
Victoria Allen, RWJBarnabas Health
Anthony Tufaro, Ethicon Somerville
Filipe Pedroso, Bridgewater Twp. Council
Scarlett Doyle, Bridgewater Planner
James Franco, Bridgewater
Ellen Brain, Mayor Somerville
Dennis Sullivan, Somerville Borough Council
Richard St. Pierre, Somerville
Patrick Scaglione, Somerset County (SC) Board of Chosen Freeholders
Bernie Navatto, SC Planning Board
Walter Lane, SC Planning Division
Geoffrey Soriano, SC Park Commission
Cindie Sullivan, SC Park Commission (Alternate)
Michael Kerwin, SC Business Partnership
John Maddocks, SC Business Partnership (Alternate)

Non-voting County Support Staff

James Ruggieri, SC Planning Division

Non-Voting Guests

Donna Allison, RideWise
Kyle Clonan, New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA)
Erica Ferry, Erica Ferry & Associates LLC (Sanofi)
Rich Reitman, The Reitman Group

The meeting commenced at about 5:05 PM

Business Items

Call to Order

RCP Chair Troy Fischer called the meeting to order.

Attendance Roll Call

Principal Planner James Ruggieri read through the roll call and noted for the record the voting members that were in attendance.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Fischer noted that the Thursday, September 20, 2018 RCP meeting date may have to be changed to a new date which will be determined. The County Employees Recognition & Retirement Dinner event has been

scheduled for September 20. The new September meeting date will be announced once the new date is determined.

Correction to March 29, 2018 Minutes

Mr. Ruggieri provided everyone with a copy of page 5 from the previously approved March 29, 2018 meeting minutes with certain text underscored representing corrected information. Under **Information Items**, “Strategic Economic Development Activities Update,” in the first paragraph, the minutes should indicate “\$40,000” (not “\$43,000”) was allocated at the November 9, 2017 meeting for Strategic Economic Development Activities and that the total cost proposal approved at the March 29, 2018 meeting was \$43,000 which includes \$3,000 to cover administrative costs which can be covered in the approved 2018 Budget under Plan Implementation.

There being no discussion, Chair Fischer asked for a motion to approve the noted correction to the March 29, 2018 minutes. Somerset County Freeholder Director Patrick Scaglione moved and Somerset County Planning Director Walter Lane seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 15

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was approved.

Adoption of May 16, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Chair Fischer asked if there were any corrections to the May 16, 2018 meeting minutes; there being none, Chair Fischer asked for a motion to approve the May 16, 2018 meeting minutes. Freeholder Director Scaglione moved and Mr. Lane seconded the motion.

A voice vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 14

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 1

The motion to approve the minutes was approved.

Treasurer’s Report for July 18, 2018

Mr. Ruggieri gave the Treasurer’s Report for July 18, 2018. There being no questions, Chair Fischer asked for motion to approve the July 18, 2018 Treasurer’s Report. Somerset County Business Partnership President & CEO Mike Kerwin moved and Somerset County Planning Board Chair Bernie Navatto seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Troy Fischer, Jason Dameo, Filipe Pedroso, Scarlett Doyle, James Franco, Ellen Brain, Dennis Sullivan, Rick St. Pierre, Patrick Scaglione, Bernie Navatto, Walter Lane, Geoff Soriano, Mike Kerwin, Vicky Allen, and Tony Tufaro.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

Public Comment Period

(There were no public comments concerning the Action items on the agenda).

Action Items

Adoption of Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan

Mr. Ruggieri reported that staff distributed the draft narrative of the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan to all the voting members for review; staff made the suggested changes to the narrative based on the feedback. Staff then worked with the County Graphics Department to incorporate graphic images, pictures, and maps to complete the plan which was then redistributed to the RCP members for final review; staff did not receive any comments regarding the completed plan. Mr. Ruggieri noted the Regional Center Strategic Plan is now ready to be adopted along with the Background Report. Everyone then reviewed a draft resolution which was prepared for the purpose of adopting the Strategic Plan and Background Report.

Chair Fischer asked for a motion to adopt the Regional Center Strategic Plan and Background Report. Somerset County Business Partnership President & CEO Mike Kerwin moved to adopt the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan and Background Report; Mr. Navatto seconded the motion. Some brief discussion followed. Somerset County Park Commission Deputy Director/Leisure Services Cindie Sullivan noted that the last paragraph of the resolution does not mention the Somerset County Park Commission; Mr. Ruggieri noted that was an oversight and that the Park Commission should be referenced in the resolution. Mr. Kerwin then amended his motion to adopt the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan and Background Report with the provision that the Somerset County Park Commission be referenced in the final paragraph of the resolution; Mr. Navatto seconded the amended motion.

Some additional discussion followed. Mr. Kerwin and others commended the County Graphics Department for doing an excellent job incorporating the graphic enhancements to make the document appealing to read. Mr. Kerwin and Mr. Lane thanked the Steering Advisory Committee and County staff for their work in compiling all the feedback and editing the narrative into a succinct and readable document.

A voice vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: 15

Nays: 0

Abstentions: 0

The amended motion was approved.

Creative Placemaking Challenge Grant Awards

Mr. Ruggieri reported Raritan and Somerville each submitted a completed Challenge Grant proposal for Creative Placemaking. A brief summary of both proposals was distributed at the meeting.

For \$15,000, Raritan Borough proposes a Bench Art Project consisting of selected artwork that will be transferred onto vinyl wrapping to be applied onto existing benches along Somerset Street. Raritan's Historic & Cultural (H&C) Commission will hold a community art contest to solicit designs illustrating Raritan's history and assets in which selected artworks will be applied to vinyl wraps to be installed on up to 34 existing benches along Somerset Street. The project will complement Raritan's ongoing economic revitalization initiatives. In conjunction with this project, the Raritan H&C Commission intends to partner with Raritan's Community Events Coordinator to plan for and hold an unveiling event alongside an arts festival to be held in the fall of 2018. A sample illustration of a vinyl wrapped bench was passed around at the meeting.

For \$15,000, Somerville proposes to have on display five art sculptures created by Seward Johnson Atelier that will be positioned in five different locations along Main Street and Borough parks. The objective is to create an opportunity for residents to interact with 3-D art works and enhance the dining, shopping, and visiting experience in Somerville. Pictures were passed around at the meeting illustrating various sculptures from the Seward Johnson Atelier Collection "Celebrating the Familiar" and "Seeing Beyond the Frame" series. Mayor Ellen Brain described how Seward Johnson Atelier has an inventory of sculptures that are shared by different towns based on a rotating schedule which would allow Somerville to change the sculptures over time. Some of the Challenge Grant funding would be used to undertake a variety of art-related activities in conjunction with the sculptures, including an exhibit in the Somerville library of a visual explanation of the Lost Wax Method of casting bronze sculptures, educational components in coordination with local schools, etc.

Some discussion followed. Somerset County Business Partnership Vice-President for Economic Development John Maddocks suggested Mayor Brain may be able to get helpful information by contacting the Carrier Clinic about their experience in displaying sculptured work on their grounds. Following the discussion, Chair Fischer asked for a motion to approve Raritan and Somerville's Challenge Grants for Creative Placemaking Challenge Grant proposals for \$15,000 each. The motion was made by Mr. Lane and seconded by Vicky Allen, VP, Strategic Marketing, Southern Region, RWJBarnabas Health.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Troy Fischer, Jason Dameo, Filipe Pedroso, Scarlett Doyle, James Franco, Ellen Brain, Dennis Sullivan, Rick St. Pierre, Patrick Scaglione, Bernie Navatto, Walter Lane, Geoff Soriano, Mike Kerwin, Vicky Allen, and Tony Tufaro.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

Chair Fischer noted that Bridgewater Township did not submit a formal Creative Placemaking Challenge Grant proposal as there are some competing ideas for a possible proposal. Chair Fischer noted the Executive Committee is willing to extend the deadline for a short period of time in hopes that the Township can resolve its differences towards achieving consensus on a proposal. The details of the extended timeframe will be communicated to the mayor's office.

Information Items

Strategic Economic Development Activities Update

Mr. Maddocks reported that the Strategic Economic Development Activities grant proposal that was previously submitted to the RCP was presented to the Business Partnership Board in April. A meeting was then convened with the Advisory Committee and then with the consultant. The consultant's report should be completed by

either late August or early September. What has been confirmed thus far is that there is a clear “suburban disadvantage” in the way the state allocates incentives to encourage private investment and job creation. This suburban disadvantage is currently being quantified. Mr. Kerwin noted the consultant has some good ideas about specific changes to be made to the legislation to mitigate this suburban disadvantage and create a more fair opportunity for suburban counties when applying for the same incentives that the state readily makes available to the more urbanized counties. Mr. Lane noted the message is really about job creation and retention in all of New Jersey. Mr. Kerwin added that the report’s findings characterizing the problem and remedy for action will be presented to the state legislators covering Somerset County.

Marketing

Marketing consultant Rich Reitman reported he is working with staff to finalize the July newsletter. Mr. Reitman is continuing to build his distribution list for press releases and newsletters. He is working on the annual report for 2017. The Reitman Group is working on addressing internet issues regarding www.rcponline.org which apparently has been pirated requiring that a new domain name. Once the new domain name is selected, the contents will just need to be transferred to the new website. Mr. Reitman is also continuing to search for a better analytics to determine who is looking at our website and how often. Several press releases about the rain barrel rebate program were also released.

Promotional Videos for Hotel TV Systems

Bridgewater Township Local private/institutional sector representative James Franco presented information in relation to possibly creating a promotional video about the Regional Center for use in hotel TV systems to inform hotel guests staying in the nearby hotels about all the tourist-related attractions in the Regional Center. Mr. Franco noted Bridgewater Township Planner Scarlett Doyle has contacted some of the hotels about the idea of using a promotional video to inform guests staying at their hotel about all the amenities and attractions available in the Regional Center area. There are about 1,500 to 2,000 hotel stays per week and up to 80,000 to 100,000 stays per year in the area hotels. Mr. Kerwin noted timing is important given the unprecedented surge in the number of hotel facilities being proposed in the area. The Business Partnership’s video production kit could be utilized to create a video similar to the Somerset County Tourism video with an initial focus on Bridgewater as a pilot project. Somerville Local private/institutional sector representative Rick St. Pierre suggested considering adding promotional video to any shuttle buses serving the hotels. Following some discussion, Mr. Franco concluded that this is just an introduction to the concept and more information will be provided as they move further along.

Municipal and Other Reports:

Somerville Mayor Ellen Brain reported new businesses that have now opened include Meadows Frozen Custard, Stickley Audi offering iconic furniture, Playa Bowls offering fruit bowls and smoothies, and Grumpy Bobas offering bubble tea. New businesses getting ready to open by end of summer include Cheech’s Own Cold Brew Coffee; Salted Lime offering authentic south of the border fare and giant margaritas; Surf, Turf, Earth; King Tut Middle Eastern Restaurant; Living in the Past Antiques; and Just Subs. The Village Brew Pub is expected to open in the fall. Attractions in Somerville include Cruiser Night every Friday; Starlit movie series on Thursday nights; Summer Music on Saturday nights; and Comedy nights once per month. Mayor Brain also noted Penny Milligan’s Hungry Hound is celebrating 15 years in Somerville on July 28 with a special event called Dog Days of Summer. Regarding redevelopment activity, Mayor Brain reported The Davenport apartments are now under construction where the Social Security building was located. The payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement for A&A Somerville Urban Renewal near Kirby Avenue and the PILOT agreement for DGM Station House Urban Renewal on East Veterans Memorial Drive have been approved. The Borough is looking to reconstitute the municipal master plan to unify the various master plan elements and addendums.

Later in the meeting Somerville Mayor Brain also noted the Downtown Somerville Association (DSA) will be changing its structure into a 501 (c)-3 organization requiring that a new board be formed. The objective is to

have a wider reach than just the immediate downtown area. Candidates with experience serving on a board are encouraged to apply. Anyone interested in submitting their name for a place on the new board should send a resume to the mayor for consideration; they must be a resident of New Jersey.

Bridgewater Reporting for Mayor Dan Hayes, Bridgewater Township Planner Scarlett Doyle reported the Bridgewater Hills application is proposing on Frontier Road two hotels, restaurant space, a conference center, and adult day care building. The proposal is a permitted use in the land use zone. The application is not complete. The Heritage Inn at Bridgewater application on Route 22 at the former Days Inn site proposal includes two hotels and four pads for restaurant and medical office for a gross total of approximately 190,000 square feet (SF) which are permitted zoning uses; the application is not complete. The New Jersey Center of Excellence on Route 202-206 has submitted their application to redevelop the former Sanofi site. The application has been informally reviewed and is now in for a design revision to make the plan more consistent with the Redevelopment Plan. Several public hearings before the Planning Board are anticipated given the complexity of the application. Roman Jewelers is expected to commence with construction to expand their Bridgewater store once they have met all the compliance requirements. JSM has advised they will be submitting an amended application and plans to construct on Union Avenue and Adamsville Road a daycare facility and medical offices.

The following projects are at various stages of construction: Exeter's office building renovation on Route 202-206 North; Chimney Rock Crossing East and West is open and operating with most of the CO's issued; the Briad Hotel and Zinburger restaurant and Lifetime Fitness and Wellness Center at the SJP office campus (Somerset Corporate Center) on Commons Way; Eden Wood Realty Patriot Greens residential project off East Main Street; PSE&G's Data Control Center and I & L Enterprises Child Care on Route 22 East and Sunrise Assisted Living also on Route 22 East.

RideWise TMA Executive Director Donna Allison reported RideWise assisted Raritan Borough with the kick-off of their Somerset Street StreetSmart Pedestrian Safety Campaign which is being funded through the Regional Center Partnership Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Challenge Grant program. Ms. Allison also shared that later in July staff from the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center of Rutgers University will be conducting a walkability and bikability audit around the Bradley Gardens Elementary School and presenting their findings to Bridgewater in the event the Township wants to use that information for a Safe Routes to School grant.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Assistant Watershed Protection Specialist Kyle Clonan expressed a word of appreciation for RCP's administering the Raritan River Rain Barrel Rebate Program. Mr. Clonan also noted that retiring NJWSA Principal Watershed Protection Specialist Robert O'Neil could not attend the meeting so he asked Mr. Clonan to say "thank you" for RCP's letter of congratulations on his retirement.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comments concerning regarding any items not on the agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

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Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County

Treasurer's Report for July 18, 2018 Business Meeting

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Starting Bal. checking as of 5/16/2018: \$45,958.06

Less Expenses: 5/16/18 thru 7/18/18

Table with 3 columns: Date, Item, Amount. Rows include transactions with The Reitman Group and J. Ruggieri.

Money Market Account

5/16/18 thru 7/18/18

Starting bal. Money Market Acct: \$168,456.87

Table with 3 columns: Date*, Item, Amount. Rows include deposits from Bridgewater Twp, Raritan Boro, and Somerset Cty.

ending bal as of 7/18/18: \$256,040.92

subtotal of expenses: (\$3,119.98)

Deposits 5/16/18 thru 7/18/18

subtotal of deposits \$0.00

Ending Balance (checking) after expenses and deposits: \$42,838.08

*interest earned in the money market account is not reported by bank until after the end of the previous month

Sum of checking and money market accounts: \$298,879.00

Less total Committed But Not Expend: \$123,650.42

Uncommitted Funds \$175,228.58

Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County

**Treasurer's Report for
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Table Showing Amounts Committed but Not Expended

<u>Budget Year</u>	<u>Project Initiation Year</u>	<u>Munic or RC</u>	<u>Committed Account Name</u>	<u>Current Balance</u>
2015	2016	RC	update RC Strategic Master Plan	\$150.42
2017			For Creative Placemaking Challenge Grants	\$45,000.00
2017		BW	Bridgewater Pedestrian Safety Challenge Grant	\$15,000.00
		RT	Raritan Ped Safety Chall Grant StreetSmart Campaign	\$10,750.00
		RT	Raritan Ped Safety Chall Grant Traffic Striping Imp	\$4,250.00
		SV	Somerville Pedestrian Safety Challenge Grant	\$15,000.00
2017 & 2018	2018	RC	Strategic Economic Development Activities	\$20,000.00
2018	2018	RC	Principal Marketing Services (contract year: 2018)	\$13,500.00
TOTAL:				\$123,650.42

Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County

**Treasurer's Report for
July 18, 2018 Business Meeting**

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Anticipated Revenue for 2018
(excluding interest payments from Money Mkt acct)

Total Anticipated Revenue	\$0.00
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Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County
Treasurer's Report for
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Raritan River Rain Barrel Rebate Program

Starting Bal as of 5/16/18:

\$4,627.35

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount of</u> <u>Deductions</u>	
6/7/18	<i>rebate payment</i>	\$100.00	
7/18/18	<i>rebate payment</i>	\$50.00	
7/18/18	<i>rebate payment</i>	\$100.00	
7/18/18	<i>rebate payment</i>	\$100.00	
subtotal of deductions:		\$350.00	
<u>ending balance after deductions</u>			<u>\$4,277.35</u>
Deposit (if any)			
subtotal of any Deposits		\$0.00	
<u>ending Balance after any Deposits:</u>			<u>\$4,277.35</u>

REGIONAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP OF SOMERSET COUNTY, INC.

Business Meeting of July 18, 2018

AGENDA

BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Chair's Remarks**
- 4. Correction to March 29, 2018 Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Adoption of Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2018**
- 6. Adoption of Treasurer's Report for July 18, 2018**

ACTION ITEMS

"Public comments will be entertained at this time regarding any action item. All comments shall be directed to the Chair and limited to three (3) minutes per speaker."

- 7. Adoption of Regional Center Strategic Plan**
- 8. Creative Placemaking Challenge Grant Awards**

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 9. Strategic Economic Development Activities Update**
- 10. Marketing Update**
- 11. Promotional Videos for Hotel TV Systems**
- 12. Municipal and Other Reports**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public comments will be entertained at this time regarding any items not on the agenda. All comments shall be directed to the Chair and limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Next Meeting Date: TBD

Corrections to page 5 of the March 29, 2018 RCP minutes

projects. Mr. Ruggieri described the Creative Placemaking Challenge Grant guidelines and requirements included in everyone’s meeting packet. Mr. Ruggieri and Mr. Lane noted the guidelines follow the State’s art grant guidelines. One of the Challenge Grant requirements is attendance at a workshop scheduled for May 1 which is designed to ensure the towns intending on applying for the grant are headed in the right direction in terms of the type of creative placemaking project or activity. Grant proposals are due July 2 which will be reviewed with recommended action to be taken at the July 18 RCP Business meeting.

Discussion followed. Some points made include different ways to display public art; e.g., how vinyl can be used as a medium to display a copy of an artist’s work so that the original is protected from possible defacement. Mr. Lane noted the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission is a great resource for the towns for information and expertise.

At the conclusion to the discussion, Chair Fischer asked for a motion to authorize staff to release the Pilot Program Challenge Grant applications for Creative Placemaking. The motion was made by Mr. Lane and seconded by Vicky Allen, VP, Strategic Marketing, Southern Region, RWJBarnabas Health.

A roll call vote was taken resulting in the following voting record:

Ayes: Troy Fischer, Jason Dameo, Dan Hayes, Scarlett Doyle, Chuck McMullin, Ellen Brain, Dennis Sullivan, Rick St. Pierre, Walter Lane, Ray Brown, Mike Kerwin, Vicky Allen, and Tony Tufaro.

Nays: none

Abstentions: none

The motion was approved.

Information Items

Strategic Economic Development Activities Update

Mr. Lane and Chair Fischer provided an update regarding the status of the Strategic Economic Development Activities initiative. At November’s meeting RCP allocated ~~\$40,000~~ 43,000 for strategic economic development activities to engage a consultant to look at Somerset County and identify recommendations to modify the State’s Grow NJ incentive program so that Somerset County and the Regional Center have a more equal opportunity when competing for state economic development assistance. At the November meeting the Executive Committee was also empowered to work with the Somerset County Business Partnership to award a contract for this purpose. In light of this, the County Business Partnership submitted a proposal for \$43,000 to the Executive Committee proposing that the Business Partnership engage professional services with a vendor with special expertise to make a compelling argument with the State Legislature about what needs to be done and to make the case for Somerset County. The total cost proposal is for \$43,000 including \$3,000 to cover administrative costs which can be covered from the 2018 Budget under Plan Implementation. On March 15 the Executive Committee reviewed and accepted the proposal. Pursuant to this, a grant agreement between RCP and the Business Partnership was prepared and reviewed and accepted by County Counsel. The agreement proposes that the Business Partnership will retain the firm Murphy Partners to utilize their special expertise for the purposes outlined above.

Somerset County Business Partnership President & CEO Mike Kerwin highlighted the compelling reasons for this initiative including how the Grow NJ incentive program favors geographic location over job creation and private sector investment, to Somerset County’s disadvantage, and that the McKinsey & Company report *Reseeding Garden State’s Economic Growth: A Vision for New Jersey* documents that New Jersey’s economic development program is inefficient compared to competitor states. Governor Phil Murphy has called for an

RESOLUTION ADOPTING SOMERSET COUNTY REGIONAL CENTER STRATEGIC PLAN

WHEREAS, over the past decade the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County (RCP) has relied upon the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Master Plan which was completed in November, 2006 to guide the decision making for allocating resources for projects that will achieve Regional Center goals; and

WHEREAS, in September, 2015 the RCP hosted a Regional Center Visioning Session to highlight the accomplishments achieved over the past decade, and, in light of all that has changed over the past decade, create a vision for the Regional Center for the next five years and determine how to prioritize resources; and

WHEREAS, Maser Consulting assisted the RCP in preparing the Background Report which includes the input provided by the municipal subcommittees and formed the basis for the creation of the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan to serve as a concise planning document to be used to achieve the vision and goals of the Regional Center; and

WHEREAS, the Steering Advisory Committee has reviewed the draft Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan and recommends that the Regional Center Strategic Plan and Background Report be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan together with the Background Report need to be adopted to serve as a dynamic guide towards fulfillment of the goals for the Regional Center as articulated in the aforementioned Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County hereby formally adopts the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan together with the Background Report to the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County declares its interest to periodically review this document and up-date it appropriately so that it remains a relevant and valuable tool for prioritizing resources to meet new challenges or priorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT electronic copies of the Somerset County Regional Center Strategic Plan be made available to the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Regional Center municipalities of Bridgewater Township and Raritan and Somerville Boroughs, the Somerset County Business Partnership, the Somerset County Park Commission, the Somerset County Planning Board, and our planning partners including the New Jersey Office for Planning Advocacy, RideWise TMA, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, and Duke Farms.

I, James P. Ruggieri, Secretary of the Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc. in the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Resolution adopted by said Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, Inc. at its meeting of July 18, 2018.



James P. Ruggieri, Secretary
Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County

**Regional Center Partnership
Creative Placemaking Pilot Project Challenge Grant Project Proposals**

Raritan Borough Somerset Street Bench Art Project

Raritan proposes to undertake a makeover of the Borough's 100-year-old benches using vinyl wrap to depict beautiful art prepared by a local artist featuring the town's history, culture, or a business that has been in town for a century. The project will be overseen by the Raritan Historic & Cultural Commission (H&C Commission) and will begin with an art contest open to the public. The project's goal is to advance the ongoing revitalization in town, support tourism, and attract people to Somerset Street, all in the name of economic development and community spirit. In conjunction with this project, the H&C Commission intends to partner with the Community Events Coordinator to plan for and hold an unveiling event alongside an arts festival.

Amount requested: \$15,000

Somerville Borough

The Borough of Somerville proposes to work with the Seward Johnson Atelier to undertake a project with the goal of having sculptures located in town to provide residents and visitors an opportunity to interact with 3-dimensional art works and enhance their dining, shopping and visiting experience. In addition to the installation of sculptures, there will be an exhibit in the library of a visual explanation of the Lost Wax Method of casting bronze sculptures as well as a video tape showing "the artist in his own words." Other activities are being considered including a scavenger hunt, educational components in coordination with local schools such as work books for the classroom, fun fact sheets of Impressionist artists or walking tours of the town.

Amount requested: \$15,000