

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Charlestown Exeter Hopkinton Narragansett New Shoreham North Kingstown Richmond South Kingstown Westerly

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 2003

ATTENDANCE:

WCRPC Representatives and Staff

Dale Grogan, North Kingstown Town Council
Jim O'Neill, South Kingstown Town Council
Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond Town Council
Michael Cerullo, Exeter Town Council
John Hickey, Narragansett Town Council
Chris Duhamel, Westerly Town Council
Kate Waterman, Charlestown Town Council
Devon Preston, Executive Director

Advisory Members and Public

Jason Pezzullo, Hopkinton Planner

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) was held on Thursday, January 16, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. at The Washington Trust Company building in Charlestown, one week earlier than previously scheduled to accommodate holiday schedules.

Introduction of New Board Members

Christopher Duhamel, representative from the Westerly Town Council, and James O'Neill, WCRPC appointee from the South Kingstown Town Council were introduced as the new 2003 WCRPC Board Members.

Approval of Minutes

John Hickey (Narragansett) made a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Mike Cerullo (Exeter) seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved with two "abstains" from the newest board members, Chris Duhamel (Westerly) and Jim O'Neill (South Kingstown).

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on the month's activities, and distributed a copy of URI's Intellectual Property Rights regulations, as there had been questions about how these regulations limit economic development opportunities for the county at a past meeting. Henry Oppenheimer (Richmond) led a conversation about these rules and it was decided that the board should see the most recent legislation proposing a change to allow professors to better capitalize on intellectual capital. The ED also gave an update on Statewide Planning and the Department of Transportation's plans for transportation corridor planning work over the next year, of which South County roadways are considered as one of five statewide regions. She also provided an update on the Conservation Development grants awarded to towns through Grow Smart RI from the Doris Duke Foundation. An attendance list for the January 17

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Legislators' Breakfast was passed around, and the board was encouraged to contact their legislators if they had not RSVP'd.

Election of 2003 WCRPC Board Officers

Nominations for Board officers included one member per position, and after John Hickey (Narragansett) made a motion to vote on the four nominated candidates, and the motion was seconded by Jim O'Neill (South Kingstown), the following people were elected to serve on the WCRPC

Executive Committee for 2003:

Board Chair – Henry Oppenheimer (Richmond)

Vice-Chair – Dale Grogan (North Kingstown)

Secretary – Mike Cerullo (Exeter)

Treasurer – Jim O'Neill (South Kingstown)

Congress of Councils Planning Session

General format and content of the February 13 [*Note: Congress has since been changed to March 13*] Congress of Councils was discussed.

Administrative Business

Appointment of issue-specific sub committees. Six committees were identified as necessary to address the WCRPC's range of issues. Per the organization's by-laws, at least one board member must serve on each subcommittee. Committees and their board member chairs were chosen as follows:

☞ **Water Resources:** Kate Waterman (Charlestown), Chris Duhamel (Westerly), and Meg Kerr (RI Sea Grant/URI Coastal Resources Council/ RI Rivers Council)

☞ **Transportation:** Dale Grogan (North Kingstown)

☞ **Economic Development:** Jim O'Neill (South Kingstown), Mike Cerullo (Exeter)

☞ **Housing:** Mike Cerullo (Exeter), Chris Duhamel (Westerly)

☞ **Land Use:** Jim O'Neill (South Kingstown)

☞ **Washington County Town Planners Coalition:** Henry Oppenheimer (Richmond), John Hickey (Narragansett)

The Administrative Business item "Personnel Policy" was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Michael Cerullo
Board Secretary

February 20, 2003