

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 2003

ATTENDANCE:

WCRPC Representatives and Staff

Kate Waterman, Charlestown 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
E. Robert Corrigan, Hopkinton Town Council
Devon Preston, Executive Director

Advisory Members and Public

Claudia Staniszewski, LISC
Brenda Clement, RI Housing Network
Pat Nickles, North Kingstown Planning
Jean Barry, WARM Shelter
Geoff Marchant, Comm Dev Consortium
Robert Rohm, Charlestown Planning
Diane Vendetti, South County Habitat
Tom Brillat, Wash Cty Adult Lit Center
Harriet Allen, Charlestown Town Council
Meg Kerr, URI CRC/ RI Sea Grant
Jason Pezzullo, Hopkinton Planner

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) was held on Thursday, March 20, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. at The Washington Trust Company building in Charlestown.

Approval of Minutes

John Hickey (Narragansett) made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Chris Duhamel (Westerly) seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on the month's activities, and there presented a summary of attendees, press and follow-up from the March Congress of Councils. It was announced that Senator Mike Lenihan and Representative Mel Benson had been assigned as Legislative Liaisons to the WCRPC. The job description for the WCRPC "Program Assistant" position to be filled later this spring was distributed. The ED also debriefed the board on the most recent Washington County Planners meeting and a series of meetings regarding a regional GIS center.

Vote to amend WCRPC Articles of Incorporation

The board voted whether to amend the WCRPC Articles of Incorporation to change one word regarding the IRS tax status the organization is pursuing, from "501(c)4" to "501(c)3." Bob Corrigan (Hopkinton) made a motion to approve the amended Articles. Kate Waterman (Charlestown) seconded the motion, and the amendment was unanimously approved.

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Affordable Housing Discussion with LISC and RI Housing Network

Claudia Staniszewski of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and Brenda Clement, Executive Director of RI Housing Network joined the WCRPC board and public to discuss the affordable housing issue, both at the state and local level, and suggestions for proactive work the WCRPC can pursue around this issue were discussed. Notes detailing issues identified as areas for exploration and/ or action by the WCRPC are included on the next page.

It was proposed that the WCRPC consider a region-wide strategy for addressing the housing issue in Washington County, as it was noted by many that there is a void in this area. Bob Corrigan made a motion to vote to decide whether to pursue a regional housing strategy, seconded by Jim O'Neill, and the decision was unanimously approved. It will be discussed at the April board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Michael Cerullo
Board Secretary

April 17, 2003

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Regional Affordable Housing Initiative in Washington County

Based on March 20, 2003 WCRPC Board meeting
With Brenda Clement, RI Housing Network
and Claudia Staniszewski, LISC

Suggestions/ Issues for WCRPC to work on in regional initiative

These first four points were recommendations from B. Clement, RI Housing

- ✍ Maintain and preserve what Washington County already has (20-25 developments)
- ✍ Develop and preserve mobile/manufactured home parks
- ✍ Create mixed-use developments
Use space well, with appropriate density and re-use of existing buildings
- ✍ Explore inclusory zoning and reasonable restrictions
Density bonuses for 20% affordable housing, for ex.

Also:

- ✍ Strengthen Community Development Corporation (CDC) network in Wash County
(There is presently only one CDC at work in Washington County, the Community Housing Corporation; there are 22 total CDCs in Rhode Island.)
- ✍ Look at Church Community Housing on Aquidneck Island, recent South Kingstown housing initiative, and upcoming Coventry housing initiative as possible models
- ✍ *Statewide partnership strategy:* Legislative strategy to get rid of loopholes for developers
- ✍ *Statewide partnership strategy:* Work on SHAB bill/ process
- ✍ *Statewide partnership strategy:* Address problems with definition of affordable housing: if it's not subsidized, it doesn't count as "affordable" (ex: manufactured home parks do not count towards a town's 10% affordable housing quota)