

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 2003

ATTENDANCE:

WCRPC Representatives and Staff

Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond Town Council
Kate Waterman, Charlestown Town Council
Dale Grogan, North Kingstown Town Council
John Hickey, Narragansett Town Council
E. Robert Corrigan, Hopkinton Town Council
Michael Cerullo, Exeter Town Council
Jim O'Neill, South Kingstown Town Council
Chris Duhamel, Westerly Town Council
Devon Preston, Executive Director
Alexandra Adams, Program Associate
Michael Rauh, Facilitator

Advisory Members and Public

Meg Kerr, URI CRC/ RI Sea Grant
Jason King, Hopkinton Planning Intern
Jason Pezzullo, Hopkinton Planner
Harriet Allen, Charlestown Town Council
Geoffrey Marchant, Comm Dev Consortium
Dick Sartor, Charlestown Town Council

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) was held on Thursday, June 19, 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 April meeting minutes. Dale Grogan (North Kingstown) seconded the motion, and it was approved with one abstention, by Kate Waterman (Charlestown).

Committee Reports

Michael Cerullo (Exeter) reported on the Housing Committee, whose most recent meeting was held on June 12. The committee agreed to meet again in July in order to meet the timeline for the current regional plan project. He attended and testified at the hearing for Representative Kennedy's bill on June 11 and will be speaking at an affordable housing workshop at the University of Rhode Island, Department of Community Planning, on July 30th.

Chris Duhamel (Westerly) reported that the water committee has not met since the last WCRPC board meeting.

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Dale Grogan (North Kingstown) reported on behalf of the WCRPC transportation committee stating that the deadline for comments regarding Statewide Planning's West Bay Corridor meeting which she attended, was June 20th.

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on this month's activities including several meetings that took place. The Rhode Island-Connecticut Collaborative took place on May 29th and assembled a group from defense, tourism, land use and maritime industries to collaborate on regional efforts to stimulate growth in these areas. The Director also reported on a meeting to review the Tri-State Initiative to develop a Narragansett and Little Narragansett Bay plan (modeled after the Chesapeake Bay Agreement). Both the Executive Director and Alex Adams were in attendance. The focus group reviewed the draft and the role of municipalities in land use decisions were discussed. The Statewide Planning Corridor Workshops were discussed again, and it was announced that the Interstate 95 public workshop will be held July 24th at the RI Economic Development Corporation, Quonset Office, Alex Adams and Dale Grogan (North Kingstown) will attend.

The Director also reported on the scope of work being drafted for the "Potential Impacts of Commuter Rail Extension into Washington County." Staff attended to discuss the report and funding (most to be provided by Statewide Planning). It was decided that the transportation committee would work with Alex Adams on the scope of work during the Executive Director's leave. The Director also announced the upcoming meeting, "Economic-Environmental Partnerships for Smart Growth: Shaping a New State Agenda," sponsored by Grow Smart Rhode Island and the Environmental Business Council to be held Thursday, July 17th. Alex Adams will attend this meeting on behalf of the Council. Due to the date conflicting with the Council's planned board meeting, it was decided the July 17th board meeting would be moved one week to July 24th to allow WCRPC members to attend the event.

The Board was also informed that a letter was sent out in May urging Governor Carcieri to create a blue ribbon panel regarding affordable housing. In addition, the legislative breakfast will be postponed from this summer until the fall. Finally, the Director reported that WCRPC staff would meet with the website designers that afternoon and discussion followed regarding the contact information available on the site.

Financial State of the Organization: Presented by the Executive Director

The Director distributed a handout summarizing each town's contributions to the organization. The WCRPC has received full contributions from all towns, though Westerly will be charged an additional fee for the housing project to receive all funding because the request was late for Westerly's funding cycle. In addition, it was reported that the Rhode Island Foundation has invited the WCRPC to submit a full proposal for the 2004 grant cycle. The WCRPC is also submitting an additional proposal to the Rhode Island Foundation with the Aquidneck Planning Commission, regarding promotion of the regional planning initiatives in the state.

(See attached handout).

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Affordable Housing Scope of Work

The Council then discussed the Scope of Work for a region-wide affordable housing project currently being worked on. The Council debated the issue of the final deliverables expected from the consultant regarding the project. Henry Oppenheimer (Richmond) reminded the group that the primary purpose and deliverable includes individualized, but coordinated, town plans. It was decided that a steering committee would be named and that individual town task forces would be required. It was determined that the task force and consultants will report to the steering committee. Michael Cerullo (Exeter) also suggested that the final deliverables include 1) a comprehensive assessment of trends and assets, 2) individual town plans and ordinances 3) a regional overlay plan and 4) legislative and regulatory recommendations, which was generally agreed upon. Michael Cerullo (Exeter) made a formal motion that the Executive Director be authorized to complete a draft incorporating WCRPC board comments, and that the Request for Proposals can then be reviewed and approved for release by the steering committee. Dale Grogan (North Kingstown) seconded the motion and it was approved.

Steering Committee invitees will include:

- ✂ Henry Oppenheimer (Richmond Town Council)
- ✂ Michael Cerullo (Exeter Town Council)
- ✂ E. Robert Corrigan (Hopkinton Town Council)
- ✂ Geoffrey Marchant (Community Development Consortium)
- ✂ Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation representative
- ✂ Local Initiatives Support Corporation representative
- ✂ Jeff A. Gofton (Director of the Office of Municipal Affairs)
- ✂ Grow Smart Rhode Island representative, and

- ✂ Jason Pezullo (Hopkinton Town Planner) – Ex Officio
- ✂ Rhode Island Foundation representative – Ex Officio
- ✂ Washington County Regional Planning Council Staff

E. Robert Corrigan (Hopkinton) then made a formal motion to create the steering committee nominated. Chris Duhamel (Westerly) seconded the motion and it passed. The Director then announced that West Greenwich would like to participate in the regional housing project, and it was decided that the town would be included.

E. Robert Corrigan (Hopkinton) made a motion to adjourn and Michael Cerullo (Exeter) seconded the motion. It was approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Michael Cerullo
Board Secretary

July 24, 2003