

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 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
Alexandra Adams, Program Associate

Advisory Members and Public

Clarkson Collins, Narragansett Planner
Michael DeLuca, Narragansett Planning Board
Jason Pezzullo, Hopkinton Planner

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) was held on Thursday, July 24, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. at The Washington Trust Company building in Charlestown. The meeting was called to order and a moment of silence was observed for Senator Bill O'Neill.

Approval of Minutes

John Hickey made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes. Dale Grogan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Michael Cerullo reported on behalf of the WCRPC housing committee, whose most recent meeting was held on June 12. He discussed the three focus areas of the committee which include 1) facilitation of the web-based project, 2) acting as a sounding board for a range of ideas including a regional housing trust, and 3) acting as a resource and support the affordable housing steering committee as the RFP moves forward.

Dale Grogan reported on behalf of the WCRPC transportation committee stating that the I-95 corridor planning meeting would be held that evening at the Quonset Economic Development Council office. The issue of Connecticut's Department of Transportation proposal to widen I-95 was discussed and it was noted that this would be an important issue for Rhode Island.

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Kate Waterman reported that the water committee had not met and there had been no subcommittee activity. Henry Oppenheimer recommended that the group meet after Labor Day or as soon as possible to prioritize goals and move forward.

Staff Report

The Program Associate reported on the status of the Affordable Housing Project request for proposals. The RFP was mailed out and both Geoffrey Marchant and Alexandra Adams had received several consultant inquiries. In addition, the Rhode Island Housing Neighborhood Revitalization Program Targeted Assistant Grant application was submitted to RIHMFC for \$70,000 to fund the affordable housing project. The Program Associate reminded the Board that all participating towns that had not passed resolutions of participation in the project should do so as soon as possible. The Program Associate also reported that the Rhode Island Foundation grant application for continued funding was in progress and would be submitted on August 1st.

In addition, the Program Associate reported that the preliminary meeting of the transportation group with Statewide Planning and the Town of North Kingstown would be held on August 5th. This meeting would cover the scope of work to evaluate commuter rail impacts in Washington County with and without transit-oriented development. The Program Associate and Dale Grogran will report back to the Board at the next meeting to discuss the progress of the project. The Program Associate also reported on the Grow Smart/Environmental Business Council Conference that was held in Providence on July 17th. The conference speakers (Michael McMahon, Executive Director, RI Economic Development Corporation, Jan Reitsma, Director, Department of Environmental Management and Grover Fugate, Director RI Coastal Resources Management Council) covered many issue including brownfield redevelopment, the future of Quonset, the need for high-quality jobs in Rhode Island and affordable housing in Rhode Island. Finally it was reported that the WCRPC website prototype had been viewed by the board, and no changes were suggested. The final version of the website is in production.

Vote on resolution to approve submission of TAG application to RIHMFC

Henry Oppenheimer introduced the resolution of approval for grant application submission to Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation. Jon Hickey made a motion to discuss and then approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by E. Robert Corrigan. Henry Oppenheimer commented that this resolution serves as a confirmation of the formal application from the WCRPC and is legally necessary. One language change was made to the resolution in which the wording "housing plans for each of the Washington County municipalities" was changed to "each of the participating Washington County municipalities." The motion to pass this resolution with the one change RIHMFC was unanimously passed. It was decided that the Program Associate would make the change and submit the resolution to RIHMFC immediately.

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Review of staff responsibilities during Executive Director's maternity leave

Henry Oppenheimer reminded the Board that the Executive Director would be on maternity leave for the next three months and that the Program Associate's hours were limited to 20 per week. He suggested that any issue that was of high priority should be sent to both him and Alexandra Adams. He also suggested that the Program Associate's main focus in the near future would be completion of grant applications.

Regional component in Comprehensive Plans

Michael DeLuca discussed with the Board the concept of towns including a regional component in each of their comprehensive plans. John Hickey raised the question of whether or not towns would be interested and would participate. It was generally agreed that every comprehensive plan is different; however, coordinated regional goals from the towns would be beneficial. It was also decided that this issue should be further discussed at the town planners' meeting that week. Additionally, the Board discussed the issue of regional tax sharing, but it was decided that this was an economic development issue that did not belong in the planner's meeting.

Other business

The last item of business was whether or not to schedule an August meeting. It was generally decided that with the Affordable Housing project moving forward it would be useful to meet on August 21st for an update.

John Hickey made a motion to adjourn and E. Robert Corrigan seconded the motion. It was approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Michael Cerullo
Board Secretary

August 21, 2003