

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

WCRPC Monthly Meeting Minutes for January, 2002

Attendees:

WCRPC Representatives and Staff

Dale Grogan, North Kingstown
Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond
Lori Urso, Westerly
John Hickey, Narragansett
Robert Corrigan Jr., Hopkinton
Devon Preston, WCRPC

Advisory Members and Public

Deb Mechnig, Exeter
Jim Lamphere, Charlestown Planning
Jim O'Neill, South Kingstown
Carole Costanza, South Kingstown
Sheila Brush, Grow Smart RI
Meg Kerr, RI Seagrant/Coastal Resources Ctr.
Bruce Keiser, South Kingstown
Stephen Lysik, South Kingstown

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council was held on Thursday, January 17, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. at The Washington Trust Company building in Charlestown.

Sheila Brush from Grow Smart Rhode Island reviewed the schedule for the upcoming municipal training sessions in South County this winter and spring, and described their focus on land use planning and growth management.

A committee was formed to focus on the issue of alternatives to the property tax and education funding. Henry Oppenheimer (WCRPC Representative, Richmond) and Carole Costanza (Town of South Kingstown) offered to participate on this committee. There was agreement on the informal proposal to organize an information session with experts from the state and local level as the first step.

The final Articles of Incorporation were distributed for the signatures of the present WCRPC board members. It was determined that the individual towns should review this final version and grant authority to their representative to sign. Signing of the Articles of Incorporation was tabled until the February meeting.

Likewise, election of board officers was tabled until the February meeting.

Meg Kerr of RI Seagrant/CRC and Devon Preston of the WCRPC announced a new partnership with South County Tourism Council, Johnson and Wales University, and URI Coastal Resources Center, exploring sustainable tourism opportunities in Washington County. At this time, the WCRPC is supporting the initiative without commitment of time or resources.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

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