

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 2003

ATTENDANCE:

WCRPC Representatives and Staff

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

Advisory Members and Public

Jean Barry, WARM Shelter
Kris Hermanns, Rhode Island Foundation
Nat Gabriele, Westerly
Bryan Rogers, Charlestown
Tony Cartano, Coventry Housing Associates

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

Approval of Minutes

E. Robert Corrigan made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Jim O'Neill seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports

Michael Cerullo reported on behalf of the housing committee. He informed the WCRPC that the housing subcommittee meetings would be cancelled until January due to the increased number of meetings for the Affordable Housing Project and State Task Force. He updated the group on two objectives the committee will pursue, including a web-based database that will serve as a comprehensive list of all available low and moderate income housing in Washington County. The second objective will be to research the viability of adopting the Vermont model to Rhode Island. This model includes a combined land and housing trust. The committee will update the WCRPC when it has assessed the opportunity.

Staff Report

The Executive Director reported that Grow Smart Rhode Island would be offering affordable housing training sessions on December 4th and 10th. The Executive Director will attend both meetings and report back to the board. The Executive Director then distributed the contact list for all affordable

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housing project task forces in addition to a page outlining the task forces' objectives through the project. All board members were asked to distribute the lists to the primary contact in each town as quickly as possible.

The Executive Director announced that the WCRPC staff would begin planning the annual legislative breakfast in the next few weeks. It was decided that the last week in February would be the best possible date. The staff will update the board regarding the progress on planning the event. The board then expressed an interest in inviting Sheila Brush from Grow Smart Rhode Island to a discussion at the January Board meeting.

Fiscal Year 2005 Town Contribution Requests

The Executive Director reported that the towns would be receiving their letters requesting contributions for Fiscal Year 2005. The letters will include a list of services provided by the WCRPC in addition to recent accomplishments. The letter also included the schedule for increasing contributions from the towns over the next several years as the WCRPC moves toward financial independence. E. Robert Corrigan made a motion to adopt the Fiscal Year Contribution requests and Michael Cerullo seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on Affordable Housing Project

Henry Oppenheimer updated the board about the State's Affordable Housing Task Force, which is addressing the comprehensive permitting process. He also reported that the State Task Force had intended to be completing work shortly, but has recognized that this process will require additional time and will extend the time allotted to the process. Henry Oppenheimer also reported that BC Stewart and Associates is moving forward on the project and will be updating the Steering Committee at a meeting on December 3rd. He then distributed a document that outlines recommendations to be considered by Rhode Island for the State's Task Force. The board discussed some recommendations and decided to determine consensus via phone and email prior to the next State Task Force meeting to allow the board to review the document and send any recommendations to Henry Oppenheimer prior to the vote.

Vote to approve request for proposals for Commuter Rail Extension/Transit-Oriented Development Study

Mike Cerullo made a motion to approve the RFP. Bob Corrigan seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously.

Vote to approve WCRPC agreement with Town of North Kingstown to hire consultant for Commuter Rail Extension/TOD Study

Mike Cerullo made a motion to approve the agreement. Dale Grogan seconded the motion. There was no discussion and it passed unanimously.

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Following the Commuter Rail Extension study votes the board revisited the issue of determining the board's position between meetings. Mike Cerullo moved that the WCRPC get a consensus poll by phone and/or email on Monday December 1st to adopt the recommendations submitted by Henry Oppenheimer. Kate Waterman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Town Perspectives on priority water issues

The Executive Director reported that North Kingstown and Narragansett were the only towns that responded to the WCRPC letter requesting information about pressing water issues. It was decided that the letter would be sent to all board members who would then report back to the board regarding their towns' water issues.

Bob Corrigan made a motion to adjourn and Kate Waterman seconded the motion. It was approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Michael Cerullo
Board Secretary

December 19, 2003

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WCRPC Request for Municipal Contributions

The total annual budget of WCRPC, for one full-time staff person and all associated operating costs, is currently \$65,000. We expect this general budget to remain constant over the next three years. Town contributions and private foundation grants presently support this budget. It is our hope that, eventually, the nine Washington County municipalities together will fully fund the general operating costs of the WCRPC.

FY'03 Contributions to WCRPC

South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly	= \$2,000 per town
Exeter, Richmond, Hopkinton, Charlestown, New Shoreham	= \$1,000 per town
Total from municipalities for FY'02	= \$13,000

FY'04 Contribution Request from WCRPC

South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly	= \$3,000 per town
Exeter, Richmond, Hopkinton, Charlestown, New Shoreham	= \$1,500 per town
Total from municipalities for FY'03	= \$19,500

FY'05 Contribution Request from WCRPC

South Kingstown, North Kingstown, Narragansett, Westerly	= \$ 6,000 per town
Exeter, Richmond, Hopkinton, Charlestown, New Shoreham	= \$ 3,000 per town
Total from municipalities for FY'05	= \$39,000