

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 2002

ATTENDANCE:

WCRPC Representatives and Staff

Dale Grogan, North Kingstown
Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond
Michael C. Cerullo, Exeter
John Hickey, Narragansett
E. Robert Corrigan, Jr., Hopkinton
Devon Preston, WCRPC

Advisory Members and Public

Lou Raymond, South County Habitat for Humanity
Jim Lamphere, Charlestown Planner
Steve Lysik, South Kingstown Planner
Jason Pezzullo, Hopkinton Town Planner

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) was held on Thursday, November 21, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. at The Washington Trust Company building in Charlestown.

Approval of Minutes

Although there were five board members present, Mike Cerullo from Exeter had not yet been officially sworn into office, and therefore could not vote. There was not a quorum, thus the September and October meeting minutes were not approved. A vote to approve the September and October meeting minutes was tabled until the December meeting.

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on the month's activities, and presented a report summarizing an intern's summer work, which looked at longer established regional planning organizations in neighboring states, and attempted to glean lessons from their experiences for application by the WCRPC and Aquidneck Island Planning Commission. (Copies of this brief report are available.) She announced that the Washington County Regional Planning Council has been appointed to the board of directors of the RI Rural Development Council. She presented the board with a question about how the WCRPC would like to handle projects that occur in a single town, but whose magnitude may impact the region as a whole. Examples given were the Richmond Commons project and Quonset development. It was decided that unless the issue or project is brought to the Council by a board member, we will refrain from comment on single-town projects.

Vote to Adopt final draft of WCRPC Five-Year Action Plan

Again, because there was not a quorum, the vote to approve the WCRPC Five-Year Action Plan was tabled until the December meeting.

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November 2002 Meeting Minutes Continued...

February 13 Congress of Councils Planning Session

D. Grogan, M. Cerullo and H. Oppenheimer offered to participate on a committee to plan the Congress in February. In the meantime, it was decided that it was more urgent to spend some time considering what the WCRPC would like to prioritize legislatively in the upcoming year, particularly to provide discussion topics for the January 17, 2003 Legislative Breakfast. A summary of that discussion is attached.

Administrative Business

- ✍ Advisory Committees: The board agreed that Advisory Committees are a good idea, and will select representatives for committees at the next meeting.
- ✍ Future presentations to the WCRPC: The board requested that a meeting with The Nature Conservancy and Grow Smart Rhode Island be set up, in order to discuss the organizations' plans and projects for South County in the upcoming year. It was also decided that presentations by the Washington County Land Trust Coalition and RI Housing Network should be arranged for early next year.
- ✍ Personnel Policy: There was not time to discuss the Personnel Policy.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Henry Oppenheimer for
Board Secretary

December 12, 2002

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Attachment to November 2002 Meeting Minutes

Legislative Issues for 2003

1. STATE AID TO EDUCATION

- ⚡ At the very least, maintain funding to municipalities at the same level as was received last year.
- ⚡ Legislation to fully fund all vo-tech schools (as only Davies and Met are fully funded at this time.)
- ⚡ Special Education funding distributed equitably between rural, suburban and urban communities.

2. OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION/ AFFORDABLE HOUSING BOND

3. RESTRUCTURE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

- ⚡ Separate real estate function from EDC's other responsibilities
- ⚡ Make economic development a statewide initiative, unlike EDC tendency to work solely in North and at Quonset.

4. LEGISLATIVE GRANT OF \$100,000 TO REGIONAL PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

- ⚡ Dedicate line-item in budget, or set aside for a legislative grant, to provide \$100,000 funding to increase the capacity of the state's two regional planning organizations (WCRPC, and the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission).