

# WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

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## MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 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  
John Hickey, Narragansett Town Council  
Chris Duhamel, Westerly Town Council  
Michael Rauh, Facilitator  
Devon Preston, Executive Director  
Alexandra Adams, Program Associate

#### Advisory Members and Public

Eric A. Strahl, Hopkinton Town Manager  
Dorian Boardman, Westerly  
Jason Pezzullo, Westerly Town Planner

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) was held on Thursday, December 18, 2003 at 8:30 a.m. at The Washington Trust Company building in Charlestown.

#### Approval of Minutes

Henry Oppenheimer asked that the town contribution requests for fiscal year 2005 be added to the November minutes to reflect the new contribution request figures. Dale Grogan then made a motion to approve the minutes with the following amendments. The word 'vote' should be changed to 'consensus' regarding the survey taken between the November and December meeting, since official votes are not taken by phone or email. Bob Corrigan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Committee Reports

No committees had new items to report.

#### Staff Report

Executive Director Devon Preston reminded the Board that the 2004 meeting schedule had been sent out and distributed information and brochures provided by the URI Coastal Resources Center, with their request that it be passed out to all towns. Devon Preston also reminded the Board that fiscal year 2005 town contribution requests had been sent to all towns as well. There was some discussion about

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the increase in funding requests during a difficult financial time. Dale Grogan commented that while the percent increase was 100%, the actual dollar amount was minimal when compared to the leverage that the WCRPC affords the member towns. Michael Rauh discussed the importance of the WCRPC becoming financially independent and the need for towns to meet the funding request in order to accomplish this goal.

The Executive Director then discussed the upcoming Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns convention in January and if the WCRPC should rent a booth this year. The issue was considered and the Board decided that since the booths are primarily vendors, it was more valuable for the WCRPC to participate in the other events and not rent a booth at this year's convention. Devon Preston also announced that the Legislative Breakfast has been scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup> and invitations will go out in January.

In response to increasing questions that the Executive Director has received, she asked the Board what position, if any, it would like to take on the new developments at I-95 exits one, two and three. The issue was discussed and the Board decided that the WCRPC could send a letter which highlighted the Vision 2020 goals and offer support to any towns that may need it.

The Executive Director then announced that since the WCRPC had approved a Commuter Rail Extension/Transit-Oriented Development Study RFP, East Greenwich had hired a firm to begin work on a separate TOD project. The Executive Director will meet with the East Greenwich planner and discuss how efforts may be combined on this project.

## Update on Affordable Housing Project

Henry Oppenheimer reported that BC Stewart was currently working on the nine town housing elements and the regional housing component and would be providing rough drafts in the following two weeks. Henry Oppenheimer asked that Board members encourage their town task forces to push for a quick turnaround time on the individual town housing drafts so that the project can stay on track. He also announced the next meeting of the Affordable Housing Steering Committee would be on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Henry Oppenheimer then reported on the progress of the State Affordable Housing Task Force. The Board continued discussion of the affordable housing issue including the environmental implications and zoning concerns.

## Vote to endorse Exeter resolution re: Job Corps Center and concerns regarding Queens River Aquifer

Michael Cerullo discussed the Exeter resolution that had been sent to the Board, and suggested that the support of the entire council would be very helpful to Exeter. The resolution was broad and detailed in nature, so the Board discussed possibilities for what portion of the resolution it would support. It was decided that the WCRPC would support the water protection component of the Exeter resolution, and a resolution would be drafted for the Board President's signature. Chris Duhamel suggested that the WCRPC resolution could just include the first paragraph of the Exeter resolution, as the Charlestown

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resolution had. Dale Grogan made a motion that the staff draft a resolution that is “mission driven” and then subject to the review of the Board President. Bob Corrigan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. (The final approved resolution is attached.)

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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Michael Cerullo  
Board Secretary

January 15, 2004