

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES October, 19, 2005

Attendance:

WCRPC Board Members and Staff

Chris Duhamel, Westerly Town Council
Larry Aker, Exeter Town Council
Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond Town Council
Jim O'Neill, South Kingstown Town Council
Kate Waterman, Charlestown Town Council
Anthony Miccolis, North Kingstown Council
Robert Ellis Smith, New Shoreham Town Council
Beverly Kenney, Hopkinton Town Council
Sue Barker, WCRPC Executive Director

Advisory Members and Public

Michael Rauh, Washington Trust Company
Jon Reiner, North Kingstown Town Planner
Mark Brodeur, director of Tourism Operations
Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation
Myrna George, Executive Director, South County
Tourism Council

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) held on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, at The Washington Trust Company building in Charlestown was called to order by President Chris Duhamel at 8:40 a.m.

The board accepted the resignation of Vin Cordone, Hopkinton Town Council member and welcomed new board member, Beverly Kenney, Hopkinton Town Council President, to the WCRPC board.

Approval of Minutes

H Oppenheimer made a motion to approve the September minutes. J O'Neill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

The Washington County Community Development Corporation held the first board meeting on October 17. Committees to hire an Executive Director, secure additional members for the board, and identify properties suitable for affordable housing were formed. The application for 501-c-3- federal tax-exempt status was finalized at the meeting and mailed on October 18. The next meeting of the full board is scheduled for November 14 at 5:00 p.m. at the URI Coastal Institute.

Patrick Durney, URI MBA student, has made considerable progress on the Public School Funding Project. He completed interviews with many town council members, school financial managers, and town managers. He continues to make appointments to talk to school and town officials. He plans to complete the initial study by the end of the first semester.

Work on the 501-c-3 application for federal tax exempt status for the WCRPC is resumed. Accountant Don Sullivan will provide assistance to complete the WCRPC financials. John Lemeiux, who provided valuable assistance to complete the 501-c-3 application for the WCCDC will continue to assist with the 501-c-3 application for the WCRPC.

Lori Capaldi of EDC has asked the WCRPC to host a presentation of the GIS program developed by Jim Lucht for the EDC. The program is tentatively planned be presented to key Washington County officials in early December at URI.

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

Representatives from RIPTA, Amtrak, and DOT will meet here at 10:00 a.m. with members of the Washington County Tourism Community to discuss transportation connections between the Block Island ferries in Galilee with rail and air transportation. At noon, Peter Cohen from Amtrak will meet here with representatives from Westerly and South Kingstown to talk about connections at those specific stations.

Old Business

The WCRPC Draft Action Plan for 2005-2006:

The board reviewed a draft action plan. The Public School Funding Study, commuter rail TOD study, and the creation of a community development corporation are underway. The board indicated the following project and study priorities:

- 1.) Economic development,
- 2.) Route 1 preservation
- 3.) Transfer development rights
- 4.) Development of regional TIPs
- 5.) Realty transfer tax.

WCRPC budget, FY Year 2005-2006

The WCRPC will seek funding equal to this year's request from all towns for the next fiscal year. Sue, Michael, and Chris will meet with Don Sullivan to discuss budget and tax issues. The budget proposal will be developed after that meeting.

New Business

A motion was made by L Aker, seconded by K Waterman, and passed unanimously to ask Devon Preston to return as Development Director on a part time basis.

Guest Presentation:

Mark Brodeur, Director of Tourism Operations for the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation and Myrna George, Executive Director of the South County Tourism Council gave an overview of the role of tourism in the state's economy and how tourism in Washington County might be increased.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by H Oppenheimer and seconded by L Aker and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Katharine H. Waterman
Board Secretary

October 19, 2005

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

Washington County Regional Priorities for Study 2005-2006

Votes by WCRPC Board on 10/19/05

Six Votes:

- Economic development entity

Three Votes:

- Route 1 corridor – preservation of character
- Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and other grant opportunities
- Transfer development rights

Two Votes:

- Rural economic development opportunities
- Realty transfer tax
- GIS resources / capability

One Vote:

- Tourism / hospitality industry / hotel tax
- Conservation development plans / Open space acquisition plan

Projects Underway:

- Commuter rail – intermodal transportation connections
- Washington County Community Development Corporation
- School funding – property taxes