

# 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 October 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

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) held on Wednesday, September 21, 2005, at The Washington Trust Company building in Charlestown was called to order by President Chris Duhamel at 8:35 a.m.

### Approval of Minutes

J O'Neill made a motion to approve the July minutes. L Aker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### Executive Director's Report

#### **Washington County Community Development Corporation (WCCDC) start-up:**

The WCCDC Incorporators filed an application for and received Articles of Incorporation in the State of Rhode Island, filed an application for and received a federal employer identification number, formulated the application for 501-c-3 status with the aid of a volunteer lawyer, distributed invitations, selected Carl Amaral, Susan Millis, Franziska Norin, Anna Prager, and Jared Rhodes to complete the initial Board of Directors, and opened a WCCDC checking account.

#### **Route One:**

Professor William Green and S Barker will develop a grant proposal to fund a comprehensive study.

#### **Public School Funding:**

Patrick Durney, URI MBA graduate student has begun research on the factors that contribute to public school funding in Washington County. His faculty advisor is Professor Bob Comerford. He will call WCRPC board members for an interview to gather data.

#### **Grant Proposals and Reports:**

- Grant proposal to the Rhode Island foundation was submitted at the end of July. Request was for \$35,000 for WCRPC operations and \$30,000 for the WCCDC. A site review will be held in October.
- \$1000 gift from Washington Trust will be applied to the WCCDC start up expenses.
- Total amount awarded to Washington County organizations for trail improvements and equipment through the Rhode Island Trails Advisory Committee Recreational Trails Program: \$116,048

#### **Administration:**

Quick books entries have been completed. S Barker is working with an accountant to review the financials of the organization in preparation for applying for 5010-c-3 status for the WCRPC.

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## New Business

### **Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2005-1006:**

M Rauh presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2005-2006. Discussion of the budget was tabled until the October meeting.

### **The WCRPC Draft Action Plan for 2005-2006:**

Discussion of the Action Plan was tabled until the October board meeting.

### **Washington County Community Development Corporation (WCCDC) checking account:**

The balance in the Washington County Affordable Housing Entity Feasibility Study account funded by the Rhode Island Foundation was discussed. The Rhode Island Foundation has approved the use of the surplus funds to cover start-up expenses for the WCCDC. A motion to approve transfer of those funds, in the amount of \$9,136.41, to the WCCDC checking account was made by L Aker and seconded by J O'Neill. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Guest Presentation: Wickford Junction Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Study**

Pam Sherrill presented the results of the study and led a discussion of the possible effect of commuter rail on development in the area within a ten minute drive of Wickford Junction and to a lesser degree, all towns in Washington County. It is estimated that the commuter rail stations at Wickford Junction and Green Airport will be in place by 2008. It is estimated that 80% of commuter rail users will arrive at the station from the south via Route 4. The study is intended to provide tools to guide the growth that may result from the arrival of commuter rail so those towns will be ready by 2008 to handle the growth that will result.

Westerly and Kingston will be the next stations to be considered for commuter rail. It is estimated that commuter rail connections will open in those towns in 2011.

M Rauh Suggested that the WCRPC hold a Congress of Councils meeting in November to discuss the arrival of commuter rail, Transit Oriented Development, and the possible results in Washington County. All towns face the same opportunities and threats but may deal with them differently.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by L Aker and seconded by J O'Neill and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 AM.

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Christopher A. Duhamel  
Board President

September 21, 2005