

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

April 26, 2007

Attendance:

WCRPC Board Members and Staff

Kate Waterman, Charlestown Town Council
Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond Town Council
Chris Wilkens, Narragansett Town Council
Beverly Kenney, Hopkinton Town Council
Calvin Ellis, Exeter Town Council
Jim O'Neill, South Kingstown Town Council
Ray Torrey, New Shoreham Second Warden
Sue Barker, WCRPC Executive Director

Advisory Members and Public

Michael Rauh, The Washington Trust Company
Geoffrey Marchant, Community Development Consortium
Andrew Bare, Rhode Island Foundation, Community Philanthropy Officer
Shelly Perry, Rhode Island Foundation, Gift Planning Officer

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC), held on April 26, 2007, at The Kettle Pond Visitor Center in Charlestown was called to order by Vice President H Oppenheimer at 8:37 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

B Kenney made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2007 meeting. C Wilkins seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

The Wind Energy Seminar was held April 19 –20 on the URI Bay Campus. Over 380 people attended. It was a big success. S barker worked with Jerri Paquin from the URI Center for businesses Enterprise, Julie Capobianco from the Governors Energy Resources office, and Eleftherios Pavlides, architect and wind energy expert, professor at RWU. There may be an opportunity to conduct a regional feasibility study on wind energy.

The Suburban town executive committee continues to meet. Their interests mesh with several WCRPC issues. Public school funding, fire codes, are the most notable. Washington County managers will choose the issues to support in the best interests of their communities.

The Route 1 Corridor study has entered the fourth quarter. The WCRPC held a meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee on Tuesday, April 24. Twenty-two 22 people attended. A second public meeting is planned for May 17 at the URI Bay Campus in the evening to enable those who are not available during the day to attend. The third quarter report is due on May 4.

CDBG proposals to support the CURP study in our towns were submitted to towns. We hope to receive approval in several towns. The proposal to the Rhode Island Foundation to support continuation of economic development projects is due on May 1.

The IRS has responded to our 501-c-3 application with several questions and requests for additional information. The WCRPC has been given a deadline of May 11 to submit the required materials to the IRS. S Barker requested a revision to the WCRPC Articles of Incorporation as required by the IRS. A motion was made by K Waterman and seconded by B Kenney to make the necessary changes to the WCRPC Articles of Amendment as required by the IRS. The motion passed unanimously. The tax return for fiscal year 2005-06 will be submitted to the IRS by May 15.

Washington County Community Development Corporation (WCCDC) Update

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

H Oppenheimer gave an update on the WCCDC search for an executive director. The zoning is in place in Westerly to build affordable housing on Pierce Street. The WCCDC has applied for new bond money and will submit requests for \$5,000 from all member towns. Rhode Island Housing will match those funds 2 to 1.

Town Updates

Richmond: Has put \$3000 back into the town budget to support the WCRPC.

New Shoreham: The budget has been completed and is balanced. The annual financial meeting will be held on May 7. The marina expansion issue will be in court for another year.

Charlestown: The town is waiting for the Trust appeal in first District Court to be decided. The town budget hearing is scheduled for May 7 followed by a hearing in early June.

Hopkinton: The budget will be considered on May 1. The Hopkinton Town Planner is moving to Charlestown. The town is looking for a building and zoning official.

Narragansett: The town has hired Jeffrey Ceasrine, interim town manager to continue as full time town manager. The town is looking for a CFO. The town adopted the recommendation of the Homestead Committee not to adopt a homestead exemption. The long-term beach study is being reviewed in response to the loss of much of the town beach in the recent storm.

South Kingstown: The South Kingstown Town Beach has disappeared. Many homes and businesses have been affected. The proposed school budget is over the 5.5 limit.

Exeter: The Exeter Planning Board has requested repeal of the age-restricted ordinance, adopted last year by a developer. The recent Shartner Farm plans will be considered at a financial town meeting. Shartner is considering a commercial development on the property. The town is considering contributing open space funds to a development rights purchase package.

Guest Presentation: Economic Development Strategies for Rural Communities

Howard H. Foster, Jr., former Associate Professor, University of Rhode Island Department of Community Planning, gave an overview of his studies economic development in rural communities, in Rhode Island and the region. A discussion of growth possibilities and impediments in Washington County followed.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by B Kenney, seconded by K Waterman, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Katharine H. Waterman
Board Secretary

April 26, 2007