

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES May 17, 2007

Attendance:

WCRPC Board Members and Staff

Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond Town Council
Beverly Kenney, Hopkinton Town Council
Jim O'Neill, South Kingstown Town Council
Calvin Ellis, Exeter Town Council
Sue Barker, WCRPC Executive Director

Advisory Members and Public

Michael Rauh, The Washington Trust
Company
Chip Young, Communications Liaison
URI Coastal Resource Center
Jerry O'Halloran, WCCDC board member

The May 17, 2007 meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) was called to order by Vice President, Henry Oppenheimer.

Approval of Minutes

Without a quorum, the minutes of the April meeting were not approved.

Executive Director's Report

A letter of intent was submitted to the Rhode Island Foundation to support additional research into strategies to encourage economic development in Washington County.

The report of the activities of the Washington County Route 1 Corridor Study during the 3rd quarter was submitted to the Rhode Island Department of Administration Statewide Planning Program.

Additional materials required to support the application for 5021-c-3 status were submitted to the IRS. Income tax return for fiscal year 2005-06 was completed and submitted to the IRS.

The Route 1 Corridor study is in its final quarter. A public meeting is planned for tonight, May 17 at the Bay campus in the evening so that those who are unavailable during the day can attend.

CDBG proposals to support the CURP study are currently being considered by town councils in Washington County.

Plans for a Wind energy conference in 2008 will begin this month.

Washington County Community Development Corporation (WCCDC) Update

H Oppenheimer reported that the WCCDC hired Dennis Maloney for the position of WCCDC Executive Director. The new executive director wishes to introduce himself to town officials. H Oppenheimer asked S Barker to send an email to board members asking for the name of the best person to meet with D Maloney. The board is eager to move forward with the new executive director in place.

The WCCDC has zoning approval for the Pierce Street project in Westerly.

Next year will be the final year for the 2 to 1 match offered by Rhode Island Housing. The WCCDC will approach each town for a \$5000 pledge to take advantage of this match.

Town Updates

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Richmond: The town budget hearing was held on May 16 and will be finalized on May 22. The budget has a shortfall. A hearing was held on inclusionary zoning on May 15.

Hopkinton: The Charlestown Town Planner accepted the position of Charlestown Town Planner. The budget has been finalized and will go to referendum on June 12. The budget increase, including school funds, is 3.7%. The town council will consider inclusionary zoning in June or July. The town received more CDBG proposals than could be funded. The WCRPC did not receive CDBG funding but did receive annually requested funds through the planning department.

Exeter: the budget levy cap increase is 5.25%. The town council denied the proposed age-restricted ordinance. The planning board is working on inclusionary zoning. The Exeter financial Meeting will be held on June 12.

South Kingstown: CRMC cooperated with South Kingstown to approach beach storm damage to homeowners and businesses. The South Kingstown school population decreased by 600 students last year.

Guest Presentations:

Mike Cerullo, former WCRPC board member gave a presentation of the unique services of the Washington County Coalition for Children (WCCC). The WCCC advocates for the health and wellbeing of children and families in Washington County, serving as catalyst and facilitator for improved services.

Loraine Keeney, coordinator of the URI Food, Hunger & Nutrition Partnership, gave a presentation on hunger and poverty in Washington County

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:10 AM.

Henry Oppenheimer, May 17, 2007
Board Vice President