

# 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

**January 2005**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

#### WCRPC Representatives and Staff

Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond Town Council  
Kate Waterman, Charlestown Town Council  
Anthony Miccolis, North Kingstown Town Council  
James O'Neill, South Kingstown Town Council  
L. Ross Aker, Exeter Town Council  
Vincenzo Cordone, Hopkinton Town Council  
Robert Smith, New Shoreham Town Council  
Chris Duhamel, Westerly Town Council  
Sue Barker, Incoming Executive Director  
Devon Preston, Outgoing Executive Director

#### Advisory Members and Public

Michael Rauh, Washington Trust Company  
Jim Lamphere, Charlestown Planning  
Kris Hermanns, Rhode Island Foundation  
Tom Brillat, Adult Literacy Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC) was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. at The Washington Trust Company building in Charlestown.

#### Approval of Minutes

C Duhamel made a motion to approve the November minutes. K Waterman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Welcome and Introductions

The new board members and new Executive Director were welcomed by H. Oppenheimer. Self introductions of all board members, staff and guests followed. It was decided that Board Officer elections would be conducted after the New Board Member Orientation.

#### Staff Report

D Preston suggested possible priorities for 2004 including the preservation of Route 1, implementation of the regional housing entity, study of educational funding and GIS resources for Washington County.

#### New Board Member Orientation

D Preston, outgoing Executive Director, distributed information to the new board members and reviewed the mission and goals of the organization. She gave a broad overview of all projects from 2004, introduced priorities for 2005, and answered questions from the floor.

D Preston updated the group on the feasibility study for the regional housing entity and the commuter rail planning study. A charette with the commuter rail project consultants will be held on March 3, location to be announced.

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The date for the Annual WCRPC Congress of Councils was set for Wednesday evening, March 16, 2005, at the University of Rhode Island Faculty Club. Save the date cards will be mailed next week and invitations will follow closer to the event date.

The board was reminded of the discussion at the October board meeting about possible action to preserve the rural character of the Route 1 corridor. This is a new project for which funding might be pursued in the upcoming months, based on the list of proposed action items distributed to the board at the October meeting.

H. Oppenheimer outlined a Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) proposal developed by the Towns of Richmond and Charlestown to study drainage improvements along Route 112 through those towns. A motion was made to approve submission of a regional TIP application for drainage improvements in Charlestown and Richmond was made by C Duhamel, seconded by K Waterman and approved unanimously.

A motion to send letters of support to the TIP grant review committee on behalf of regional proposals submitted by two or more towns in Washington County was made by L Aker, seconded by A Miccolis, and approved unanimously.

A discussion of the process by which future regional TIP proposals will be considered and approved by the WCRPC followed. Board members and towns will be encouraged to develop regional TIP proposals for the next funding round.

The following slate of officers was nominated for two-year terms:

President: Chris Duhamel

Vice President: Henry Oppenheimer

Treasurer: James O'Neill

Secretary: Kate Waterman

A motion to elect the proposed slate of officers was made by L Aker, seconded by J O'Neill and approved unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by K Waterman, seconded by A Miccolis and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

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Katharine H. Waterman  
Board Secretary

January 19, 2005