

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES May 18, 2005

ATTENDANCE:

WCRPC Representatives and Staff

Chris Duhamel, Westerly Town Council
Anthony Miccolis, North Kingstown Town Council
James O'Neill, South Kingstown Town Council
Kate Waterman, Charlestown Town Council
Larry Aker, Exeter Town Council
Vinnie Cordone, Hopkinton Town Council
George Tracy, Narragansett Town Council
Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond Town Council
Sue Barker, Executive Director

Advisory Members and Public

Geoff Marchant, East Greenwich Community
Development Consortium
Lou Raymond, South County Habitat for Humanity
Michael Rauh, Washington Trust Company, WCRPC
Board Facilitator

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC), held on May 18, 2005, at the Washington Trust Company, was called to order by Board President Chris Duhamel at 8:40 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

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

Executive Director's Report

S Barker reported progress of the GIS and Route 1 projects. Rather than spending money on another consultant report, conducting a short survey of each town to determine the current status of their GIS capability was suggested.

K Waterman made a motion for a resolution to support the individual towns, especially North Kingstown and South Kingstown, in their efforts to achieve Scenic Highway Designation for Route 1. J O'Neill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A letter in support of the applications for Route 1 Scenic Highway designation by North Kingstown and South Kingstown will be sent by the WCRPC Executive Director.

S Barker updated board members on the status of the 501-c-3 non-profit tax application. John N. Lemieux, Vice President, Senior Counsel, and Assistant Secretary, at Factory Mutual Insurance Company has agreed to work with the WCRPC free of charge through the RI Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer Program.

A motion was made by A Miccolis and seconded by H Oppenheimer to pass the following resolution. "Be it resolved that the Executive Director be charged and authorized to represent the corporation and to take all actions and to prepare and execute all documents necessary to obtain tax-exempt status for the corporation from the appropriate agencies of the Governments of the United States and the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations and, furthermore, the Executive Director is charged and authorized to engage whatever assistance she may need to carry out this resolution." In addition, the Executive Director will report back to the Board of Directors on the status of the application for 501-c-3 status.

Documents necessary for the completion of the 501-c-3 application were distributed for board consideration.

- 1.) Sample Conflict of Interest Policy
- 2.) IRS required wording for Article Fourth of Articles of Incorporation.

After some discussion, the board decided to defer action on the above items and include both on the June Meeting Agenda.

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A draft resolution in support of the regional affordable housing entity to be considered by Washington County town councils was distributed to the board for review. The third paragraph was modified to read as follows. "WHEREAS, a number of studies including one recently commissioned by the WCRPC identified the need for additional affordable housing units in all municipalities in Washington County; and...". A motion to accept the draft resolution as modified made by G` Tracy and seconded by H Oppenheimer was passed unanimously. A revised copy will be emailed to all board members.

The board was polled informally to determine town council support for the creation of a regional affordable housing entity. Westerly, Richmond, and North Kingstown have voted to support the organization. Charlestown, Exeter, and Hopkinton will "most likely" vote to support the organization. Narragansett will support the organization but will not pledge funds. It was determined to move forward with due haste to form the new organization.

The board discussed establishing an interim committee to develop a work plan and proceed to form the new entity. The existing affordable housing strategic planning committee will be asked to continue working with us to establish the new entity. Town managers from South Kingstown, Charlestown, and North Kingstown will be called upon to form an advisory committee. They will be invited to affordable housing strategic planning committee meetings. A motion made by C Duhamel and seconded by L Aker to charge the affordable housing strategic planning committee to establish a plan of work by the July 21 Board meeting was passed unanimously.

TOWN REPORTS

K Waterman, Charlestown Town Council, reported on the status of the state law regarding casinos in Rhode Island. She offered to invite Joe Larisa, lawyer representing Charlestown, to the June Board meeting and the offer was accepted.

A Miccolis, North Kingstown Town Council, reported his town's concern about the status of state education funding. A discussion of the need for Washington county towns to speak as a body followed. A motion was made by H Oppenheimer and seconded by K Waterman for A Miccolis to draft a position paper regarding this issue for the next board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

George Tracy, Narragansett Town council, reported that the town of Narragansett has passed a resolution against allowing LNG to be shipped into Narragansett Bay. North Kingstown has also passed a resolution against the transfer of LNG by boat in Narragansett Bay. This issue will be included on the June meeting agenda.

Henry Oppenheimer, Richmond Town Council, reported on the ISDS application that has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Management by Richmond Sand & Gravel Company. If passed, the development would affect the adjoining towns especially the towns of Hopkinton and Charlestown.

A motion to adjourn was made by A Miccolis and seconded by H Oppenheimer at 10:15 a.m. The motion was passed unanimously

Katharine H. Waterman
Board Secretary

May 18, 2005