

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES June 15, 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
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
Michael Rauh, Washington Trust Company, WCRPC Facilitator
Catherine Collette, Charlestown Affordable Housing Commission
Kris Hermanns, Rhode Island Foundation
Joseph S. Larisa, Jr., Esquire, Charlestown Solicitor for Indian Affairs

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Regional Planning Council (WCRPC), held on June 15, 2005, at the Washington Trust Company, was called to order by Board President Chris Duhamel at 8:38 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A Miccolis made a motion to approve the May minutes. J O'Neill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report

S Barker reported on the progress of the formation of the Washington County Regional Affordable Housing organization. The Washington County Regional Affordable Housing strategic planning committee met on June 13 to determine the first steps to create the organization: the formation of the incorporating board, incorporation in the state of RI, identification and invitation to potential members of the first board and development of the organization's by-laws. An incorporating board was formed. The incorporating board members are WCRPC board members, Chris Duhamel and Henry Oppenheimer, Geoffrey Marchant, East Greenwich CDC Director and Jeffrey Goften, former Director, Office of Municipal Affairs. A by-laws committee was formed. The members are Chris Duhamel, Geoff Marchant, Mike Cerullo, former Exeter Town Councilor and former WCRPC Board member, Brenda Clement, Rhode Island Housing Network, and Claudia Staniszewski, Local Initiatives Support Corporation.

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.

The board deferred discussion of the items above and will list both specifically on the July Meeting Agenda.

The final presentation of the Transit Oriented Development Study was held on June 1 at URI. The final TOD report will be released very soon and will be included on the WCRPC web site.

Research on the possibility of securing funds to develop GIS systems for Washington County towns continues. A questionnaire was distributed to town planners to gather information about their current capability and needs. Peter August estimates a two-year project development period for the project. S Barker will meet with Jim Lucht and Lori Capaldi of the Economic Development Corporation to discuss their work. Jim has been invited

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to attend the July meeting to demonstrate his work on a statewide GIS system. The EDC project is separate from the GIS project of the RI Statewide Planning Program.

The Route 1 Corridor Preservation project continues. Will Green, Professor in the URI Department of Planning and Landscape Design was contacted for assistance. He suggested that the study could be carried out by his studio class next year. This approach will be pursued.

Introductory meetings with Washington County town officials with S Barker and M Rauh continue. M Rauh commented that no new issues have been reported by the towns and no consensus on town priorities has emerged. Officials from two of the seven towns visited to date admitted that they were not aware of the mission of the WCRPC.

M Rauh reminded the board that six months have passed since S Barker was hired to be the Executive Director and it is time for her six month review. M Rauh will distribute an employee evaluation to board members to evaluate her performance.

The possibility of a breakfast for Rhode Island Legislators representing Washington County before the beginning of the next legislative session was discussed. The importance of educating WC legislators of WCRPC priorities and projects and providing them with a written record of our accomplishments and issues was emphasized.

Guest Speaker

Joseph S. Larisa, Jr., Charlestown's Assistant Solicitor for Indian Affairs, the guest speaker for June, discussed issues of Native American Tribal sovereignty, pending litigation relative to federal trust status, and questions of jurisdiction on Settlement Lands. He also discussed the potential impact on land use planning and ramifications for Washington County. C Duhamel requested material from Attorney Larisa that would summarize the matter.

Rural Economic Development Initiative

Geoff Marchant, Director of the East Greenwich Community Development Corporation and President of the RI Rural Development Council Board of Directors described a grant proposal to be submitted to the National Trust for Historic Preservation by a consortium of organizations, including the WCRPC. If successful, the grant funds will be used to conduct a pilot program to encourage heritage based economic development in the region including the towns in Washington County, plus the towns of Coventry, East Greenwich, and West Greenwich. A draft resolution was distributed to all towns in the proposed grant region to garner support for the proposal. A sample draft resolution indicating support of the grant proposal by the WCRPC was presented for approval. H Oppenheimer made a motion and L Aker seconded a motion to modify the draft resolution to indicate specific support by the WCRPC and pass the resolution to support the proposed grant. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made by A Miccolis and seconded by H Oppenheimer at 10:00 a.m. The motion was passed unanimously

Katharine H. Waterman
Board Secretary

June 15, 2005

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