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CHARLESTOWN

EXETER

HOPKINTON

NARRAGANSETT

NEW SHOREHAM

NORTH KINGSTOWN

RICHMOND

SOUTH KINGSTOWN

WESTERLY

www.wcrpc.org

Washington County Regional Planning Council

Board of Directors Meeting

January 22, 2009

Kettle Pond Visitors Center

MINUTES

Present: Chris Duhamel – Westerly (President), Henry Oppenheimer – Richmond (Vice President), Marjorie Frank – Charlestown, Beverly Kenney – Hopkinton, Chris Wilkens – Narragansett, Ray Torrey – New Shoreham, Steve DeToy – North Kingstown, B. Michael Rauh – Facilitator – Washington Trust, Jeff Broadhead – Executive Director, Maura Sayre – Program Coordinator

Summary: This organizational meeting began the two-year 2009-2010 term of the Washington County Regional Planning Council. Officers were elected, new members introduced, and the meeting schedule was set (Second Thursday morning of each month). A list of invitees to participate in our meetings was developed.

A Summit of Town Council Presidents, Town Mangers, and WCRPC representatives is called for February 5 to discuss Regionalism and self-directed solutions for Washington County towns and to formulate a response to state-mandated regionalization.

Other upcoming events include “What Town Councils Need to Know” on February 11th, a Septic Forum in the summer, and a Permitting workshop for March. Our Congress of Councils (April 23) will present success stories of Regional actions in other places.

The Council’s work program will focus on fewer issues that have greater impacts on the nine towns. The Action Plan will be discussed in detail in February.

Introduction of new Council members.

C. Duhamel presented an overview of the Council’s history, current

projects, and benefits to the Town of Westerly. He stressed that the regional approach is more important than ever. It is the Board's responsibility to report back to their respective Town Councils.

Minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting were reviewed and passed.

There was no December meeting.

Officer Election – the following officers were elected:

C. Duhamel, President

H. Oppenheimer, Vice President

B. Kenney, Secretary

C. Ellis, Treasurer

2009 Meeting Schedule – 2nd Thursday of each month, 8:30am at Kettle Pond Visitors Center
Board reviewed and prioritized potential speakers for future meetings.

Upcoming Events:

2009 Summit Meeting of Town Council Presidents - February 5th

M. Rauh has invited Town Council Presidents, WCRPC Board members and Town Managers to a summit meeting to discuss regionalism vs. regionalizing. The focus will be to discuss upcoming funding challenges and facilitate discussion on 2-4 areas that bring real value to the Towns.

What Council Members Need to Know - February 11th

WCRPC and GrowSmart are hosting. Invitations were sent to Town Councils, Chairs of Planning Boards, Zoning Boards, Conservation Commissions, Economic Development Boards, Town Managers, and Town Planners.

Permitting Workshop – date to be determined

This will be a joint workshop by WCRPC and Grow Smart RI. It will involve DOT, DEM, and Town Planners.

Congress of Councils – April 23th

Focus will be Regionalism vs. Regionalization. Board suggested speakers with tangible and practical information focused on Washington County. We will look for stories from successful cooperative ventures among towns outside Rhode Island.

Septic Workshop – date to be determined

Public forum with GrowSmart and DEM to be held during the summer when more residents are in town.

WCRPC Action Plan – Draft was distributed for feedback. Action Plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ocean SAMP (Special Area Management Plan) – J. Broadhead is on the Stakeholder group, and attended a meeting with CRMC for local towns. The plan is in response to wind farm proposals and is intended to research and make science-based decisions on uses for the nearby ocean areas. There was low attendance from WC towns at the Municipal meeting prior to the stakeholder meeting. The next meeting is 1/30; the Board was encouraged to make sure their towns are represented.

Wind Farm Study – URI Summary was distributed. R. Torrey and C. Wilkens reported progress in their towns. The study by URI Landscape Architecture student, under the direction of Professor Angelo Simeone, was approved by consensus. A student presentation in May will be encouraged.

The next meeting of the WCRPC will be February 11, 2009

Attest: _____

Print: _____

Secretary, WCRPC