

**MINUTES  
ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION**

**March 24, 2004  
Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, NH**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** B. Landman, Vice Chair, S. Kroner (North Hampton); G. Coppelman, K. Weyler (Kingston); D. Holden (Portsmouth); L. Smith, R. Day (East Kingston); J. Kennedy (Brentwood); R. Cooney, J. Gray, T. Newton, B. Ellis (Salem); J. Payzant (New Castle); M. Senter, T. Moore (Plaistow); F. Griffin (Exeter); B. Brown (Rye); S. Perry (Kensington); L. Ingram, G. English (Exeter); C. Cross (Newington); P. Olney (Hampton)

**GUESTS:** M. Allen (Newton); D. Sundquist (Society for Protection of NH Forests); M. Bott, D. Finch, J. Topping (East Kingston); C. Grassie (Stratham Town Planner); M. Blanchard (Hampton)

**STAFF:** C. Sinnott (Executive Director); A. Pettengill (Business Mgr); T. Falk (Transportation Analyst); D. West (Assistant Planner); T. Walker (Planning Consultant); D. Wickliffe (GIS Specialist)

Landman convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and all attending introduced themselves. Sinnott welcomed everyone and welcomed three new commissioners from Salem: Jeff Gray; Tom Newton, and Bob Ellis.

**I. Welcome/Introductions:**

Sinnott welcomed Mary Allen to this meeting and noted that Mary was asked to attend because the Commission wished to honor her time and energy as a representative for 18 years since she recently resigned. She has consistently provided a link between local officials and the RPC. She was a former Chairperson of the Commission as well as a member of many committees, including the Executive Committee, Regional Impact Committee, Personnel Committee, Master Plan Committee and the Salem-Plaistow-Windham MPO. She demonstrated a tremendous commitment of not only time to these various committees, but of true dedication to positive change. Especially appreciated within the office was her thoughtfulness shown to staff over the years. Sinnott awarded her a Certificate of Appreciation, flowers and a gift certificate to her favorite store. Allen thanked the Commission and staff. She stated that the Commission has the most outstanding staff and the most knowledgeable commissioners. She has learned a great deal from her tenure here and the knowledge she has gained by being on the Commission is what drove her to run for the State legislature. She stated that the diversity and professionalism of the RPC made the difference for her.

**II. Minutes of February 11, 2004**

*Coppelman moved to approve the Minutes of February 11, 2004 with one correction: add M. Allen and P. Olney to the list of attendees; Weyler seconded. **SO VOTED.***

**III. Communications**

Sinnott informed the Board that Moni Sharma, Executive Director of Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission is retiring this year after 30 years. Landman noted that Foster is ill again

and that a get well card will be circulating tonight.

Landman introduced David West, Assistant Planner and newest RPC staff member. He noted that David will be circuit rider and technical assistance person for Greenland, Kensington, and will also be responsible for preparing Hazard Mitigation Plans under our OEM work programs.

**IV. Legislative Update**

**V. Strategic Land Conservation Planning in Southeastern NH-Dan Sundquist, Research Director, SPNHF**

Sundquist thanked the RPC for allowing him to come talk about land conservation in our region. He explained that he is the Research and GIS Director for the Society. He stated that SPNHF has over 400 private parcel easements currently and out of the 10,000 members in NH, 3800 live in the Southeast. He began a slide presentation titled "Saving Special Places; Developing a Strategic Conservation Plan for Southern NH." The presentation highlighted five goals of the Forest Society: Community; Habitat; Forest, Drinking Water, and Agricultural and the biggest goal of the Forest Society being the conservation of another million acres in the next 25 years. He reviewed population density changes over the past 30 years and future projections. A detailed explanation of the data layers and scoring scheme involved in the process of choosing conservation forest land was discussed. Discussion followed on agricultural land and new and innovative residential forest land protection ideas. He stressed that there are many opportunities to coordinate the Forest Society's land conservation efforts with the Commission and land trusts in the region.

**VI. Overview of Community "Viz"-David Wickliffe, GIS Specialist**

Sinnott explained that there is a new and dynamic tool available for visualizing alternative land uses in communities and the NH Charitable Foundation has a fast growing interest in N.H. and has funded training for one person from each planning commission to learn about this new software. Dave Wickliffe attended the training. Wickliffe explained that the Orton Family Foundation provides innovative tools that facilitate decision making within local communities through educational programs, publications, video and other planning resources. They hope these tools will help communities build consensus in the planning process and provide for training in the newest techniques in community planning. One of the planning tools they've introduced is GIS software that provides 3D capabilities, alternative comparisons, and dynamic impact analysis beyond the usual GIS applications. This software can do a multitude of scenarios when it comes to land use planning and all the elements are visible and fluid. There are several case studies and success stories. Wickliffe demonstrated several ways the software reconfigures and conceptually changes the environment so planning ideas can be viewed on the screen. He noted that it is expensive and a single seat license for just one of the components is approximately \$2500 and the 3D Site Builder is also \$2500. Wickliffe fielded questions and Coppelman asked if it would be possible for the State to purchase the software much like the way it purchased GRANIT for all the planning commissions. Sinnott stated that may be a possibility and Theresa Walker was also applying for a grant to purchase the software.

**VI.A. Regional and Environmental Planning Projects**

Walker referred to Attachment 3 and reviewed the environmental planning projects for FY 04. She explained that most of the watershed based planning occurs in the Exeter River Watershed. She noted that in the Regional Environmental Planning Program she will be organizing community conservation commissions and land protection groups to gather any land activity which will be mapped and sent to the Dept of Environmental Services. She also announced a Conservation Commission Roundtable where conservation commissions can meet regionally and discuss mapping and local land use topics of concern. The purpose of the Roundtables is to give the RPC a rapport with conservation commissions and for them to explore common problems and success stories. The first of what will be quarterly roundtables will occur on March 31<sup>st</sup> in Hampstead.

Coppelman asked about the rumored blending of the Coastal Program office and NH Estuaries Program with Environmental Services. He wondered if it would be a positive change or have negative impacts. Walker expressed some concern with the move.

#### VII. Commission Roundtable/Town Meeting Results

Coppelman: Kingston voted approval of two commercial use districts and designated the town as it's own water district; Cooney: Salem voted down water and sewer district; Olney:Hampton voted to purchase rights to farm along Taylor River and approved the high school addition but voted down the budget and sewer extension; Kroner: No Hampton voted to limit the number of pumps at refueling stations and redefined and clarified special exceptions. **Bouchard spoke about** changes in the GACIT's 10 year plan submitted by the Governor and a meeting sponsored by the Portsmouth delegation. She said a letter had been forwarded to the Senate and Governor stressing the need to maintain the MPO process and regional priorities contained in the original (GACIT's) 10 year Plan, increased funding for smaller projects which address local congestion problems.

Sinnott noted that Sandown did not vote to become dues paying members and Epping approved a Citizen's Petition to stop paying dues to the Commission, however, they have already paid their 2004 dues and are receiving advice from their town attorney on how to consider membership status. The Planning Board still considers themselves as members.

#### VIII. Contract Authorization: NH Office of Energy and Planning

- A. National Flood Insurance Program - Community Assistance Visits for Epping and North Hampton; *Cooney moved to allow the Executive Director to enter into a contract with NHOEP; Ellis seconded. SO VOTED.*
- B. National Flood Insurance Program - Community Assistance re: 2005 Town Meeting Warrant Articles for FIRM maps; *Ellis moved to allow the Executive Director to enter into a contract with NHOEP; Smith seconded. SO VOTED.*

#### IX. Other Business

- A. Project Updates; Distribution of January and February 2004 Work Program Summaries
- B. April & May Meeting Topics & Locations: Sinnott suggested that the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting be

held in Fremont and ask Jill Robinson, RPC Staff, to make a presentation about her village plan model ordinance; He suggested that May's meeting be held in Hampton since Glenn Greenwood will be presenting a Desalination Report

- C. Other: Sinnott also noted that Merrimack Valley Planning Commission would like to hold a joint meeting with the RPC and suggested holding our Annual Meeting jointly. Discussion followed. General consensus was that without a defined agenda, the Annual Meeting was not the meeting to attempt to do jointly. *Senter moved to direct the Executive Director to pursue a joint meeting with MVPC; Moore seconded. SO VOTED.*

Sinnott provided a brief update on the Regional Sewer Outfall project and commented that there was an NPR segment in which Shep Kroner of North Hampton was interviewed explaining the density issue.

Sinnott asked the Board to consider approval of the CZP Conservation Commission Circuit Rider Year II. It would continue the efforts of Year I by meeting and working with each Commission to identify and implement projects to increase the protection of natural resources. *Holden moved to allow the Executive Director to enter into a contract for Coastal Program funds for the Conservation Commission Circuit Rider program; Weyler seconded. SO VOTED.*

Sinnott also informed the Board that the transportation research vehicle that is currently under a lease program will be out of lease in April and the staff has been looking into buying it and would like to ask the Board's approval to enter into a loan agreement with Ocean Bank. Coppelman asked why the RPC was not considering re-leasing it or a new vehicle and Sinnott stated that with such low mileage it really didn't make any sense to lease another one. Discussion followed. The Resolution for bank funds was tabled until the Executive Committee meets at the end of the month.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette L. Pettengill  
Recording Secretary