

**MINUTES  
ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION**

**July 14, 2004  
Seacoast Science Center-Odiorne State Park  
Rye, NH**

**Commissioners Present:** R. Ellis (Salem); C. LoVecchio, C. Melvin (Newton); G. Coppelman (Kingston); L. Smith, R. Day (East Kingston); W. Bambury, F. McMahon (Hampton); B. Brown (Rye); T. Tocci, R. Venden, R. McDermott (Hampton Falls); F. Griffin, G. English (Exeter); R. Dodge, S. Dodge (Seabrook); J. Payzant (New Castle); A. Stoller (Windham); C. Pratt (Brentwood); L. Gil, T. Moore (Plaistow)

**Guests:** W. Lull (Science Center-Exec. Director); F. Rubin (GIS Mgr-Complex Systems); B. Salas (President-Applied Geosolutions); K. Speckman (Eagle Tribune); A. Stewart; J. Nupp (East Kingston); R. Griffin (Exeter); L. Smith; J. Henson (Exeter Conservation Commission); T. Peter (Windham); J. Stadler (CICEET); J. Odell (Nature Conservancy); S. Miller (GBNERR); J. Matheez; S. Soule, T. Diers (NH Coastal Program); J. Hunter (NHEP); J. Raynes (Rye Conservation Commission); D. Forbes, J. Forbes, N. Fulmoe (Hampstead)

**Staff:** C. Sinnott (Executive Director); Annette Pettengill (Business Manager); D. Walker (Sr. Transportation Plnr); T. Falk (Transportation Analyst); R. Pruyne (Transportation Technician); D. Wickliffe (GIS Specialist); S. Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner); T. Walker (Consultant)

**7:20 Welcome/Introductions**

Landman welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. He then introduced Wendy Lull, Executive Director of the Seacoast Science Center.

Lull thanked everyone for coming and gave a description of the renovation to the Science Center and some history to the exhibits. She also reviewed some activities coming up.

**PRESENTATION**

**Description and results of landmark study comparing land use change from 1962, 1974 and 1998**

Sinnott introduced Fay Rubin, GIS Manager-UNH/Complex Systems. He noted that she can be credited with establishing and creating the standards for the GRANIT mapping system and making it the great resource that it is.

Rubin began with an introduction to GIS and GRANIT. She stated that GRANIT's mission is to promulgate efficient use of NH's resources by providing geographical information and geospatial analysis to citizens and organizations in the State. This is accomplished through data development, coordination of standards, application of spatial analysis, web services and technical support. She reviewed the many data layers used for GRANIT information and the uses of the data such as land protection, water quality, corridor studies, resources mapping, emergency response, impervious surface mapping. The future of GRANIT is a greater recognition of spatial data as an asset and increased web based capabilities, higher resolution data sets, and increased reliance on imagery.

She further explained that the recently completed land use change study for Rockingham and Strafford Counties quantifies and compares land use patterns from 1962, 1974, and 1998 as interpreted and digitized from large scale aerial photography taken at those intervals. The effort is part of a two phase project sponsored by the Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology (CICEET) at UNH. The project objective is to develop GIS layers that represent a time series of the urbanized area encompassing Great Bay. She presented the mapped results of the study which highlight the changes in land use that have occurred in Rockingham County over the last 40 years.

Rubin introduced Bill Salas from Applied Geosolutions and gave a brief biography. Salas described his work on the second component of the project which is a model for projecting future land use based on economic forecasting and the historical record. He has developed a model for projecting future land use based on historic change. He assesses the impacts of accessibility to economic markets based on patterns of development. This creates an estimate of how much land use will change by year 2020/2035 and where it will occur. It involves a comprehensive exam of land use change in the region related to a range of factors.

A question and answer period followed for both presenters.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

Landman introduced new commissioners: Richard McDermott, Alternate and Roger Venden from Hampton Falls and Richard and Sophie Dodge from Seabrook and asked that everyone else introduce themselves.

### **II. Minutes of June 9, 2004**

*Tocci moved to approve the Minutes of June 9, 2004 with a correction in spelling of "Hampton" Falls on page three and a discussion that was missing from the*

*Minutes* - "Landman asked if an attraction like an aquarium would be beneficial to Pease. He explained that he and his wife Jenny are members of a group called "Citizens for a Seacoast Aquarium" (soon to be called Friends of the Earth, Sea and Space Center) ([www.seacoastaquarium.com](http://www.seacoastaquarium.com)). One of the group's goals is to bring to ey business and community leaders the project, its status and goals. There are supporters from UNH and the Smithsonian Institution. Bald said he hadn't heard of the project but would like to know more about it. Bambury seconded. **SO VOTED.**

### **III. Communications**

Sinnott noted that the Independence Byway brochures are available thanks to the work of Maura Carriel and earlier work of Glenn Coppelman. Landman presented Olney with a Certificate of Appreciation for ten years of commitment to the RPC, awarded at the RPC Annual Meeting.

### **IV. Executive Committee Report**

Sinnott reviewed three contracts approved by the Executive Committee: Targeted Block Grant, REPP, and Hazard Mitigation Plan for Hampstead, Windham, Hampton Falls, and Newfields.

### **V. Regional Work Program for FY 2005**

Sinnott referred to Attachment 2 and explained that the Work Program Report is a compilation and assembly of all the work programs under each funding category divided by topics such as land use, transportation, recreation, etc to be undertaken this year. Some discretionary projects are included. He referred to the last page for a listing of projects without funding.

*English moved to adopt the FY 05 Regional Work Program as presented; Ellis seconded. **SO VOTED.***

### **VI. Legislative Update**

Sinnott reminded Commissioners that last year Legislative Priorities were framed from high to low priority. He put out a general call for Commissioners interested in being part of the Legislative Adhoc Committee. Existing Committee members are Richard Cooney, Warren Bambury and Merilyn Senter.

### **VII. Solicitation of members for the "Developments of Regional Impact Committee"**

Lovecchio volunteered to replace Mary Allen and Olney volunteered to replace Ralph Foster in the RIC.

### **VIII. Other Business**

- A. Project Updates: April & May Work Program will be emailed to Commissioners
- B. NHARPC Report: Met in May and agreed to establish legislative policies for the coming year in the Fall.
- C. MVPC Joint Meeting Report: The Joint meeting with Merrimac Valley Planning was held in June and Commissioner Carol Murray and Assistant Commissioner from Massachusetts talked about various cross border projects such as I93 and Rte 125. The meeting was a successful start to good communication. Both DOT Commissioners requested that further meetings of this type occur.
- D. Other: No meeting in August; Executive Committee meeting at the regular meeting date in August.

### **IX. Adjourn**

*Tocci moved to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.; Coppelman seconded. SO VOTED*

Respectfully submitted,

Annette L. Pettengill, Recording Secretary