

**MINUTES
ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION**

**September 14, 2005
Plaistow Public Library**

Commissioners Present: A. Stoller, Chair, P. Griffin (Windham); R. Cooney, G. Fredette (Salem); T. Tocci (Hampton Falls); W. Bambury, F. McMahon (Hampton); L. Ingram, F. Griffin (Exeter); R. Day, L. Smith (East Kingston); S. Perry (Kensington); B. Dearborn (Greenland); B. Meserve, R. Hull (Newfields); J. McDevitt, R. Gross (Greenland); B. Goodrich (Stratham); T. Winglass (Sandown); B. Landman (North Hampton); T. Moore, M. Senter (Plaistow); G. Coppelman (Kingston)

Staff Present: C. Sinnott (Executive Director); D. West (Regional Planner); A. Pettengill (Business Mgr.)

I. Welcome/Introductions

Stoller convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and asked all present to introduce themselves.

II. Minutes of July 13, 2005

Bambury noted the he did not appear on the attendance list and wished to be added. Also noted was a spelling correction to page 3 "Quinlan"
Tocci moved to approve the Minutes of July 13, 2005 with corrections;
*Landman seconded. **SO VOTED.***

AGENDA ITEMS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER

IV. Hazard Mitigation Planning in RPC Region (David West)

West began by explaining the federal requirements for each municipality to have a Hazard Mitigation Plan. Regional Planning commissions have been contracted by the NH Bureau of Emergency Management to assist with preparing the plans. He reviewed several goals of Hazard Mitigation Plans, such as reducing the hazards on people, economy and structures prior to natural disasters occurring. West works with town officials to gather the information necessary to identify past and future hazards. He leads meetings,

creates maps, drafts a Plan, and acts as a liaison between the town and FEMA. West described the differences between emergency action plans and hazard mitigation plans and fielded questions. (A copy of David's PowerPoint presentation is available at the RPC website.)

V. **Plaistow Planning Update (Tim Moore)**

Moore welcomed everyone to Plaistow. He noted Plaistow has approximately 7800 residents which increases to 25-30,000 during any given business day mostly due to the 125 corridor businesses. He also gave some information about the zoning areas in town and highlighted some innovative zoning and regulatory initiatives currently underway, including minimum impact development standards. Tocci noted that Plaistow's Annual Report did not contain any information about the RPC or their involvement with the town and suggested that in the future something be added.

III. **Communications**

Sinnott distributed a News Release for upcoming GACIT Hearings on the Ten Year Transportation Plan. He also referred to a memo and table illustrating the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects submitted. He continued that NHDOT must have a regional ranking by October 14th. The TAC will review the projects and air quality analyses at its meeting on Friday, September 23rd. A meeting of the MPO Policy Committee will need to be held prior to October 14th to adopt final rankings.

Sinnott also referred to a memo prepared by staff regarding comments to take to the GACIT hearing and NHDOT regarding the 2007-2016 Ten Year Plan. The memo includes three project specific comments and six general comments. Sinnott reviewed each comment as listed. Discussion followed.

Sinnott announced that Jill Robinson was promoted to Sr. Planner on July 1st.

VI. **NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions**

Stoller referred to Attachment 2: NHARPC Legislative Policies for 2006-07. She stated that the Executive Committee reviewed the policies developed by NHARPC and asked that they be submitted to the full Commission for discussion. Landman suggested that a change to increase the funding for transportation projects via the gas tax be added. Discussion followed regarding the lack of specificity of the policies and previous bills that the RPC has successfully introduced to the legislature. *Landman moved to approve the NHARPC Legislative Policies for 2006-2007; Ingram seconded. **SO VOTED and Amended (see following amendments).** Landman moved to amend the Policies by adding an item that increases the gas tax and use gas tax funds for*

highway projects in accordance with current law; Stoller seconded. SO VOTED, Stoller moved to further amend the the Policies with a request for more specificity on each policy in the future; Senter seconded. SO VOTED.

VII. Sustainable Development Implementation Guide – REPP Task FY 06

Sinnott stated that the regional planning agencies have been working together statewide to provide town boards with guidance for implementation of sustainable development planning principles. REPP will be funding a coordinated effort to prepare a guidebook covering important techniques of sustainable development planning and perform outreach and education. Currently there are many techniques available to planning boards, however no models exist and it's often difficult for a volunteer planning board to know how to go about putting these techniques into use. Sinnott suggested that Commissioners let him know which of the 15-20 techniques listed in Attachment 3 are priority items. He also stated that NH Dept of Environmental Services (DES) and Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) are participating in the project. DES has offered to fund the editing and publishing of the document for distribution.

VIII. Executive Committee Report

Stoller asked if there were any questions regarding the Executive Committee Report. Landman noted the positive benefits of project tracking as seen in the Attachment and suggested all commissioners take the time to look up the status of their town's projects.

Sinnott reminded the Board that Transportation Enhancement projects have been received and will need to be ranked at the next meeting. He asked that anyone who's town submitted a project please be present at the next meeting and be prepared to speak to the details of the project. Moore suggested that the ranking process should give credit for subsequent or second phases of any existing projects.

IX. Other Business

Commissioner Orientation: October 19th or 20th - prior to Commission Meeting/Hampton

Executive Committee: September 21st

November Commission Meeting: Salem Boys and Girls Club

Cooney moved to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.; Griffin seconded. SO VOTED.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette L Pettengill
Recording Secretary

