



Rockingham Planning Commission

ATTACHMENT 1

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**MINUTES
ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
July 11, 2007
Hampstead Town Office
Hampstead NH**

Commissioners Present: T. Tocci, Chairman (Hampton Falls); S. Hastings (Hampstead); P. Griffin, A. Stoller, L. Maloney (Windham); K. Weyler, G. Coppelman (Kingston); T. Moore, M. Senter (Plaistow); M. Allen (Newton); A Khan (Seabrook); F. Griffin (Exeter); J. Whitney (Kensington); J. Payzant (New Castle); B. Brown (Rye); F. McMahan, W. Bambury (Hampton); L. Smith (East Kingston); B. Landman (North Hampton); J. Kennedy (Brentwood); B. Goodrich (Stratham)

Guests: C. Lombard, Brownfields Project Officer; J. Liptak, Outreach Coordinator – EPA

Staff: C. Sinnott (Executive Director); A. Pettengill (Business Manager); T. Walker (Consultant)

- I. Chairman Tocci convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and roundtable introductions were made.
- II. Minutes of June 13, 2007

Landman noted a correction to page 2, paragraph 3: "source of increase of costs is the demand for construction materials like cement, steel and petro chemicals and resulting inflation in prices"

Tocci noted that R. McDermott was incorrectly listed as a guest, and should appear as a commissioner from Hampton Falls.

*Griffin moved to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2007 as amended; Hastings seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Agenda Items Reorganized

- III. Brownfields Program – Public Hearing: Sinnott reminded Commissioners that the RPC and Theresa Walker were successful in securing a Brownfields grant and she's very excited to begin the process. She introduced Christine Lombard from EPA Brownfields and John Liptak, the Outreach Coordinator for the NH Brownfields Program and noted they have already given her invaluable advice and guidance.
 - A. Overview: Lombard explained that the Brownfields program is redevelopment, reuse, or expansion of real estate that has the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, or contaminants. Municipalities, states, and quasi-governmental agencies such as regional planning agencies are eligible to receive funding for Assessment, Cleanup and Job Training. She noted that revitalizing a brownfield site can create jobs, increase local tax revenues, reduce development pressures on green space and create opportunities for open space.

- B. Work Plan & Contract: Walker reviewed some of the training she has received and noted that the next step is to produce a work plan and submit it to Dept of Environmental Services and EPA. An inventory of the sites in our region will be completed and a consultant will be hired for assessment of those sites. The Steering Committee meeting will be held in August.
- C. Interaction with State Brownfields Program: Liptak stated that he is the RPC contact and he is currently working with the Town of Exeter. He distributed a book with success stories from all over NH, illustrating projects that were turned into successful housing, businesses and useful community centers.

Liptak and Lombard answered various questions about the program and specific sites. They also discussed the difference between Superfund sites and Brownfields sites and a possible strategy for identifying possible sites in the RPC region. Lombard suggested a broad search and then narrow the sites from there. Discussion followed. Tocci thanked Walker, Lombard and Liptak for presenting Brownfields information.

*Sender moved to authorize the RPC to enter into a contract with EPA for the Brownfields Program; Allen seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Tocci welcomed and introduced a new commissioner from Kensington, Joan Whitney.

IV. Proposed Dues Rate Modification

Sinnott distributed a memo and table and explained that the Executive Committee recently looked at the RPC dues rate and found that it has only increased two times in 20 years and consequently, has fallen behind. Dues is used by the RPC to leverage match funds for grants and the transportation grants match uses approximately half of our yearly dues. The Executive Committee recommended a small increase to \$.90 per capita with a yearly indexing based on inflation. Landman suggested that this is too small an increase and not enough to correct the problem. Kennedy noted that there has recently been negative responses from some communities so there seemed to be a risk of towns dropping out of membership if the increase was too large. Bambury noted that all commissioners should be taking very seriously their duty to advocate for the RPC and make them understand the RPC's worth. Smith stated that raising the rate 5 cents and indexing future years is less impact to towns and a good way to correct the deficit. Landman noted that this increase proposes to result in a \$30,000 increase over all , but that isn't nearly enough to make up for Salem's non-payment, to cover salary increases and rising costs of doing business. He strongly advocated a larger increase. Discussion followed.

*Allen moved to adopt the proposed rate of 90 cents per capita for dues calculations and raise the rate by the rate of inflation each year after; Griffin seconded. Weyler, Landman and Kroner opposed. **SO VOTED.***

Tocci reiterated the importance of Commissioners communicating with their Board(s) about the RPC. Sinnott noted that letters will go out to Boards of Selectmen and Planning Boards to explain the dues increase and future indexing plan sometime in September.

V. FY 2006 Audit

Tocci stated that the Executive Committee reviewed the FY 2006 audit and the auditor attended their last meeting. Sinnott noted that the RPC is in Federal Compliance and has a

“clean” audit, however there was a decline in fund balance from the previous year. The Executive Committee recommends acceptance by the Commission. *Allen moved to approve the FY 2006 Annual Financial Statements; Kennedy seconded. **SO VOTED.***

VI. Legislative Update – Session Summary

A. Legislative Priorities: Sinnott noted that the NH Association of Regional Planning has been very active at targeting legislation. However, HB 390: Regional Impact Criteria - didn't make it. Greenwood recently prepared a Technical Memo explaining the Regional Impact Criteria and Commissioners were asked to use the Memo as a way to communicate with their Boards. The Transportation recommendations for improving the Ten Year Plan also didn't pass. The Special Service Transportation volunteers bill passed. HB 383 Shoreline Protection and HB 472 Household Hazardous Waste funding mechanism passed. The renewable energy portfolio standard passed which means that a fraction of the power generated and sold in NH will have to be from a renewable source. HB 868 LCHIP funding was killed but came back in a trailer bill.

B. Sinnott noted that the RPC gets a representative seat on Great Bay Siltation Study Committee and Bruce Dearborn volunteered for the seat. *Weyler nominated Dearborn; Kennedy seconded; **SO VOTED.***

The RPC also gets a seat on the NH Rail Authority created by SB 75 and said we will need to make an appointment soon. The Authority has no meeting scheduled; the first meeting is likely to be in September. *Allen nominated T. Moore, Plaistow as the RPC Rep.; Hastings seconded. **SO VOTED.***

VII. Staff recommendations for RPC role in local and regional energy issues.

Sinnott distributed a memo from Eric Steltzer, Assistant Planner and Tocci read the memo aloud. The memo highlighted specific areas in which RPC staff could assist in regional and local energy conservation and green buildings. One suggestion by staff was that the RPC take a more active role in setting local priorities and policies regarding energy conservation and alternative sources of energy. Staff could develop a “template” master plan chapter and develop zoning, building code and site plan regulations that establish new rules for property owners. Model ordinances can be developed for providing standards and incentives for energy efficiency and sustainable building parameters. Sinnott added that staff is currently involved with a tidal energy project as interveners in permits with FERC for development of tidal energy facilities in the Seacoast. The RPC will also be conducting a feasibility study to evaluate the community's interest, legal requirements and steps required to create a Community Choice Aggregate. Sinnott suggested this topic be added to September's agenda for further discussion.

VIII. Other Business

A. Executive Committee Report: none distributed

B. Meeting Calendar FY 08: Sept meeting at Odiorne State Park; any topics or location suggestions should be forwarded to the Chairman.

C. Other: MPO Update: The redesignation process has concluded as the formal request already went to the DOT Commissioner for his submittal to the Governor. Every town voted in the affirmative except for New Castle and Epping. Newfields has not notified us of their vote. All the Strafford Regional Planning communities voted in the affirmative except for Dover, who has yet to vote.

Griffin distributed a press release regarding I93

III. Communication

Sinnott noted that press releases and multiple news articles have appeared relating to the annual meeting. Postcards have been recently mailed for the next I-93 CTAP Conservation Commission Roundtable meeting. Tocci thanked Hastings for hosting this meeting. Smith noted that his term expires in August and this would be his last meeting. He thanked everyone for a fun 20 years. Tocci reminded Commissioners that Smith received the James Hayden award at the Annual Dinner and his contribution to this Commission will be missed.

*Allen moved to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.; Hastings seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Respectfully Submitted,

*Annette Pettengill
Recording Secretary*