



Rockingham Planning Commission

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**ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES
May 14, 2008
Plaistow Library, Plaistow, NH**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: T. Tocci, Chairman (H. Falls); G. Coppelman (Kingston); B. Goodrich (Stratham); D. Green (Sandown); P. Bears (Fremont); C. Pratt, J. Kennedy (Brentwood); B. Brown (Rye); F. Griffin (Exeter); A. Khan (Seabrook); P. Griffin (Windham); T. Moore (Plaistow); W. Bambury (Hampton); J. Payzant (New Castle); C. Cross (Newington); C. Chimera (S. Hampton)

STAFF PRESENT: C. Sinnott (Executive Director); A. Pettengill (Business Manager); E. Steltzer (Regional Planner)

I. Welcome/Introductions:

Tocci convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and thanked Tim Moore and the Plaistow Library for hosting the meeting. He introduced Donna Green as the new Commissioner Representative from Sandown and introductions were made around the table.

II. Plaistow Planning Update

Moore gave a brief update on Route 125 construction plans for two dedicated turn lanes and sidewalks in town and other projects. He also displayed examples of 2007 aerial photography (Pictometry) that Plaistow's purchased and explained how useful a tool it will become for town planners and building inspectors. Other recent planning changes include a new Dark Sky Lighting Ordinance, and offered to supply example. he said it has been extremely effective.

III. Minutes of April 9, 2008

P. Griffin moved to accept the Minutes of April 9, 2008 as presented w/ one spelling correction to the first page; Kennedy seconded. SO VOTED. Kahn, Cross, Payzant, Pratt abstained.

IV. Communications

A. Release of Projected Water Use Estimates for Seacoast NH (USGS): Sinnott explained there is a two part analysis included in the overall Groundwater Sustainability Study. Part 1 has been released and it is a water demand analysis based on certain population projections. Part 2 is the groundwater modeling component and it should be ready for presentation in September.

B. Bi-State MPO Meeting (Downeaster); NH Rail Authority: Sinnott explained that the Bi-State MPO is an outgrowth from the Bi-State Economic Summit held two years ago where REDC, Southern Maine, Strafford Regional Planning and the RPC decided to work together on interstate regional

transportation project coordination. One common issue is the Downeaster and interest in both states and regions for ensuring the Downeaster's long term health and success. A brainstorming session for long term funding options was held. Tocci read from an article he saw noting the economic benefits that are being seen by the local economy due to the Downeaster service. Discussion followed.

C. Other: Sinnott noted that Landman has indicated he is no longer has the time available to fulfill his duties as Commissioner and has asked his Selectmen not to reappoint him. He is down-sizing his involvement in organizations in order to spend more time with his business. Sinnott stated that this is a significant loss to the Commission in that he believes strongly in the purpose of the Commission and was a strong advocate for it.

V. Regional Master Plan Update

A. Overview: Moore began the presentation and explained that the Regional Master Plan is a policy document defining the goals for the region and it's also a reference document for local board's master plans. The RPC has a statutory obligation to update the Regional Plan every five years. It is required to address land use and housing at a minimum, and public input is required. Chimera asked why it was necessary to follow the State standard since that means it becomes the same document and suggested that the RPC go outside the box and stray from the standard. Sinnott agreed and noted that's why the RPC is adding an Energy chapter and breaking Natural Resources out to include a Water Resources section. Sinnott continued the presentation and reviewed how the process will work. Staff will produce an interim draft chapters which will be approved sequentially by the Master Plan Committee and by the Commission (as needed). When all chapters are complete in draft form, the document will be subject to a regional public information/input process. After that concludes, the Commission will vote to adopt the Plan. Discussion followed.

B. Energy Chapter: Steltzer presented information on the 92 local energy committees formed in NH and noted that the RPC region has 12 of them. He explained that Energy Committees provide the Town with a vision and foundation to base their own energy plan on. Steltzer reviewed the chapters to be included in the RMP Energy Chapter, including goals and policies, climate change education, regional energy consumption, renewable energy, wind power, tidal permits, energy in planning, community tools, and recommendations.

VI. Workforce Housing Legislation (SB 342)

Sinnott referred to Attachment 4 and the Workforce Housing Legislation. He explained that it defines the obligation every community has for the creation of workforce housing in residential areas. He noted the difficulties associated with this legislation as it treats all communities as if they are the same. Discussion followed regarding current policies in RPC towns.

VII. Nominating Committee Report

Tocci noted that Attachment 5 includes a Slate of Officers for FY 09 and it was prepared by the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee was appointed by the Executive Committee and met to consider nominations. The Chairman noted that there is no prohibition in the Bylaws to the Chair serving a second one year term and he has decided to do that. Coppelman has agreed to return as Treasurer. Further nominations will be taken from the floor of the Annual Meeting in June.

VIII. Great Bay Estuaries Commission Final Report – Tabled

IX. Proposed RPC Budget for FY 09

Coppelman moved to adopt the FY 09 RPC Budget as presented; P. Griffin seconded. Discussion followed. Sinnott noted that the bottom line is the projected funds shows a big increase but so does the passthrough funds. The operating budget actually shows a small decline. He also noted that the salary line item decreases due to the decision not to fill Jill Robinson's position . Chairman Tocci called the vote. SO VOTED.

X. Other Business

A. Executive Committee Report – No discussion

B. Annual meeting Reminder: Tocci reminded everyone that June 12th is the Annual Dinner Meeting at the Atkinson Resort and Country Club; John Sununu is the Speaker and he is attributed with inventing the concept of the 10 year Transportation Plan; he supported State funding for the Regional Targeted Block Grant; and forced DES to become one entity. Tocci requested that everyone that can attend should do so and socialize with their fellow commissioners and staff .

XI. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette L. Pettengill
Recording Secretary