

MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING Rockingham Planning Commission June 14, 2017

Portsmouth Country Club, Greenland NH

Commissioners: M. Allen, J. Doggett (Newton); R. Barham (Fremont); A. Carnaby, B. Kravitz (Hampton); F. Chase (Seabrook); R. Clark, J. Kiszka, M. Turell (Atkinson); P. Coffin, G. Coppelman (Kingston); C. Cross, D. Hebert (Newington); L. Cushman, L. Gagnon (Stratham); A. Davis, S. Hastings (Hampstead); G. English (Exeter); M. McAndrew (New Castle); R. McDermott (Hampton Falls); P. Merrill (Kensington); T. Moore (Plaistow); M. Traeger (Sandown); A. Welch (Raymond); P. Winslow (Rye)

Guests: S. Ayer (Newfields); M. Bean, E. Calhoun, E. Nathan (Kingston Cons. Comm); L. Bistany (REDC); C. Brown, T. Santora (Hampton Falls); A. Clark, S. Turell (Atkinson); P. Cullen (New Castle); R. Davis, C. Hastings (Hampstead); A. Hebert (Newington); D. Holden; B. Kiszka (Plaistow); S. Kravitz (Hampton); J. Lovejoy (Stratham); C. McAllister, A. McAndrew (New Castle); J. Merrill (Kensington); M. Rabideau (Seabrook); S. Sinnott (Exeter); K & C Weyler (Kingston)

Staff: C. Sinnott (Executive Director); A. Pettengill (Business Manager); R. Rines (Office Administrator); R. Pruyne (GIS Systems Manager); J. LaBranche (Sr. Planner); J. Rowden (Sr. Planner); C. Matthews (GIS Transportation Analyst); D. Walker (Transportation Program Manager); S. Bogle (Sr. Transportation Planner)

SOCIAL HOUR

DINNER

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

I. Welcome – B. Kravitz, Vice Chair

Kravitz welcomed everyone and noted that the Chairman, Phil Wilson, wishes he could be here. On his behalf, Kravitz thanked the Executive Committee, Nominating, Bylaw and Legislative Policy Committees for their hard work and

long hours over the year. She thanked Pettengill, Rines and all the staff. Kravitz stated that Sinnott is retiring in August, as most everyone knows, and that he will be a hard act to follow for sure. Staff and Commissioners and colleagues all over the State will miss his input in all aspects of Planning in NH. She credited the organization, the expertise of Wilson and the Search Committee members, (T. Moore, R. Taintor, G. Coppelman, and L. Bistany) for their handling of the Executive Director search process and interviews. Tim Roache was selected to fill the position, and the Commission is excited to welcome him to the RPC in August.

II. The Year(s) in Review

Sinnott thanked everyone for attending and recognized Dave Holden for being a longtime friend of the RPC, commissioner from Portsmouth, personal friend and the guy who got us this venue tonight. Sinnott stated that this is his 29th annual meeting as Executive Director of the RPC and although this is never his favorite event to plan for, he always enjoys himself and this year he actually feels very prepared. He reviewed the past year's work accomplishments of the staff, which included completing the Coastal Risks & Hazards and Sea Rise project, three hazard mitigation plans, four master plan updates, a Long Range Transportation Plan and a new UPWP, and giving administrative assistance to CART. RPC staff also assisted towns with ADU compliance, analyzed and assessed 1300 culverts and stream crossings, and welcomed a new Transportation Analyst, Christian Matthews. Staff implemented a Strategic Plan and produced a Services Catalog identifying the things the agency already offers and promoting services in an effort to increase the budget in spite of the eroding federal funds. Staff created a survey and did many more projects, like overhauling the Personnel Policies and Bylaws and providing circuit rider services to 9 communities. This is only a short list of the many accomplishments of course, And while doing all this, the agency navigated the task of finding a replacement for a long in the tooth Director. He thanked the Search Committee and the Executive Committee for accomplishing that without disrupting the staff and doing so with skilled professionalism. He reminded everyone that he started working at the RPC near the agency's infancy, and then left for a couple years and then re-emerged. The agency had become a much more important factor to the region. It was a valuable resource for the communities because the region was growing so fast and the towns needed the planning expertise. Today is a little different, without the intensity of high growth pressures the agency has struggled a bit with it's purpose. So the analogy here is that just like a Town that needs to manage its own growth and redevelopment when things slow down, the RPC needs to focus on its own growth and redevelopment now, and enter into an enrichment phase. He attributed the RPC's success so far to the commitment of its member towns and the representatives of those towns that engage with the RPC and it's staff, and care about the region as a whole. Sinnott stated it has been a privilege to have the job of Director for almost 30 years and he's confident that the new leader has the ability to carry on the torch and reshape and re-energize the RPC.

Kravitz expressed a heartfelt thank you to Sinnott for his leadership all these years.

III. Election of Officers/Executive Committee for FY 2018

Kravitz referred to the Nominating Committee Report and Executive Committee Slate of Officers (Attachment I). After reading the Slate, Kravitz asked for any nominations from the Floor. There being none, *Turell moved to approve the Slate of Officers as presented; Doggett seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Kravitz noted that anyone interested in serving on any of the Standing Committees of the RPC should let Sinnott and/or Wilson know.

IV. Guest Speaker: Willem Lange, Writer, Storyteller, Host of "Windows to the Wild" TV show

Sinnott introduced storyteller, writer and explorer Willem Lange. Lange shared some comedic experiences and life stories. The audience was greatly amused and entertained. Sinnott presented Lange with a framed map of NH as a thank you from the Commission.

V. Awards & Recognition

Coppelman presented Certificates of Appreciation for Commission tenure: Mike McAndrew and James VanBokkelen received a 5 year award; Joan Whitney received a 10 year award. Coppelman also presented last year's 20 year award to Chris Cross.

Sinnott made a special Certification of Appreciation presentation to staff member Glenn Greenwood to recognize his 30 year anniversary with the RPC. He stated that Glenn is an essential member of the staff and often a mentor for new staff. He has infinite knowledge in land use planning and is highly respected in the region and the State. He creates a special humor in the office and although Glenn was not able to be present this evening, it is important to honor him tonight in front of his colleagues and friends with a gift of Red Sox tickets for him and his family.

Sinnott also presented three special awards to Commissioners for their longevity: Mary Allen, Susan Hastings (40+ years) & Glenn Coppelman (30+ years). They reminisced for a moment about their first years with the Commission, and then received a standing ovation.

James Hayden Award: Julie LaBranche, Sr. Planner, nominated the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) for the James Hayden award. She described their stewardship of land and conservation of over 13,000 acres since 1980, including nature preserves, hiking trails, farmland and scenic vistas throughout NH's Coastal Watershed and Rockingham and Strafford counties. She noted that SELT embodies the spirit of James Hayden who no doubt

would have applauded their efforts in preservation and protection of agricultural heritage. They also actively engage the public in their events to encourage education. Peter Coffin accepted the award on behalf of SELT. He thanked the RPC for the award and for their support of SELT over the years.

Daniel Quinlan Award: Sinnott nominated Barbara Kravitz for the Dan Quinlan award. He noted Barbara's extensive involvement in regional and municipal planning since the 1990s and her commitment as an RPC Commissioner, volunteer in the Town of Hampton, and on many boards and committees. He also talked about her commitment to the RPC Legislative Policy Committee and how she has re-energized and re-formatted the RPC Legislative Forum through her exceptional ability to network and bring ideas, people and organizations together, in the true spirit of the Quinlan award. Kravitz thanked Sinnott and the Commission for the award and kind words and invited everyone to participate more in their town and the region.

Coppelman also had a special award to present to Sinnott on behalf of the Commission. He stated that since this was Sinnott's last Annual Meeting as Director of the RPC, the Commission would like to present him with a special plaque in recognition of his three decades of extraordinary leadership, dedicated service and contributions to the region and the State.

Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary