

ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

North Hampton Town Hall
September 10, 2014

Members Present: Glenn Coppelman, Chair, Kingston; Tim Moore, Plaistow; Barbara Kravitz, Fran McMahon and Ann Carnaby, Hampton; Donald Clement and Gwen English, Exeter; Don Marshall, Fremont; Richard McDermott, Hampton Falls; Robert Clark, Atkinson; Joan Whitney and Peter Merrill, Kensington; Phil Wilson, North Hampton; Phil Winslow, Rye; Steve Gerrato, Greenland; Francis Chase, Seabrook; and Michael McAndrew, New Castle.

Others Present: Tim Harned, Police Chief Brian Page, Beth ?, Lisa Wilson, North Hampton.

Staff Present: Cliff Sinnott, Glenn Greenwood, Theresa Walker and Roxanne Rines.

7:00 p.m. Meeting Opened

1. Welcome/Introductions

Coppelman welcomed everyone, thanked North Hampton for hosting the meeting and thanked Lisa Wilson for providing the refreshments.

Attendees introduced themselves and stated what municipality they were from or the agency they represented.

2. Presentation of RPC Quinlan Award to Phil Wilson, North Hampton Commissioner

Coppelman explained the Quinlan Award and thanked Wilson for his work on behalf of his Town and this Commission. He explained that the nomination was submitted by Planning Board Chair Shep Kroner who was not able to attend but who arranged to have **Tim Harned**, North Hampton Planning Board Vice-Chairman, make the award presentation. Mr. Harned described the many projects and efforts Wilson has done for the town, including initiatives developed locally but regionally such as those relating to open space conservation and workforce housing. **Wilson** accepted the award with gratitude.

Coppelman presented Francis Chase with a 5-year service award and Fran McMahon with a 10-year service award and thanked both.

3. Minutes from August 13, 2014, Annual Meeting

Clark stated he was at the September 10th meeting, but was not listed in the members present.

Motion: **McDermott** made a motion to approve the minutes of August 14, 2014, with amendment. **Whitney** seconded the motion. **Motion carried five abstentions.**

4. Review/Adoption of FY 2015 RPC Regional and Local Work Program

Sinnott reviewed the regional and local workprogram which consists of the work tasks that the RPC will undertake in the current fiscal year and their funding sources.

Clark stated he had asked the Commission in April to write a letter to NHDOT expressing concern that HDR has been contract to evaluate their own earlier work on the benefit-cost for the Plaistow Rail Extension. He believe this is a conflict of interest and sould be addressed. **Sinnott** apologized for not sending the letter yet and stated the letter will be written shortly.

Motion: **McDermott** made a motion to adopt the FY 2015 RPC Regional and Local Workprgram with the caveat that the letter will be written about the Plaistow Rail Study. **English** seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

5. Regional Master Plan/GSF – Review and update of schedule

Greenwood reviewed the updated schedule of meetings.

6. Review of RMP Economic Development Chapter

Sinnott apologized for the chapter not yet being complete; his intension this evening is to review key issues and recommendations of the chapter. He expects to have the chapter completed shortly and will distribute with two weeks for member review.

He gave a presentation of the key issues and recommendations. **Merrill** suggested that innovation “incubator” be addressed. **Kravitz** stated the State needs to focus on their responsibilities of helping communities and small businesses.

There was further discussion about the “Quality of Life” related recommendation as a component of economic competitiveness and affecting population in-migration and the importance of planning in helping to maintain the high quality of life. **Clement** stated he would like to add that communities should develop and/or promote better recreational programs and facilities (this has been highly successful in Exeter). **Sinnott** stated he will add the above comment to the recommendation.

Kravtiz stated she would like the availability of water added to recommendation #2. **Sinnott** concurred. Discussion ensued about the availability of water and sewer for development or redevelopment, future demographic changes and the need of workforce housing. Comments should be sent to Sinnott. **Coppelman** stated the economic development chapter (probably more than others) affects and is affected by all the other chapters in the master plan.

7. Review of RMP Natural Hazards Chapter

T. Walker reviewed the contents, goals and recommendations of the chapter. LaBranche asked if members have any suggestion for the strategy part of the chapter to please let her know. **Clark** suggested that the RPC hold a workshop explaining the hazard mitigation funding available to towns. Staff concurred. Walker asked members to please send all comments to LaBranche.

Sinnott spoke about the culvert work that summer interns have been working on.

8. Review of RMP Housing Chapter

Greenwood stated the discussion tonight will be on the goals and recommendations of the chapter and explained that the housing chapter impacts all the other chapters.

He reviewed the goals and discussion ensued about the current and future needs of the housing stock. **Kravitz** stated goal #2 needs to be expanded. **Merrill** stated #4 should have a bolder statement. Discussion ensued and members gave suggestions for rewording of the goals.

Wilson stated there is no articulation of goals; they are more statements and/or actions rather than goals. After further discussion, **Greenwood** stated he would rewrite the goals and have Wilson review them before being presented at the next meeting. He stated that he will end the discussion due to time constraint and the need to rewrite the goals. **Wilson** stated the recommendations are well written.

9. Other Business

A. Legislative Forum: **Coppelman** stated the legislative forum will be held on Wednesday, November 12th at Unutil with one topic, the recent Interstate Energy Strategy.

B. Other:

Coppelman stated the next Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, September 30th, at the Kingston Town Hall.

Sinnott stated Theresa Walker set up a workshop with Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella (DTC) to help communities learn how to deal with telecommunications issues and cable franchise agreements. It will be held on Wednesday, October 29th, at the REDC office in Raymond.

10. Public Comment

None.

Coppelman thanked Lisa Wilson for providing the snacks.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne M. Rines
Recording Secretary

ACTION ITEMS:

- a. **Sinnott** to write a letter to NHDOT concerning potential conflict of interest in HDR benefit cost analysis on Plaistow Rail Study.
- b. RPC to create a future workshop on hazard mitigation grant funding available to towns.