

MINUTES

ANNUAL MEETING
ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
June 8, 2016
Atkinson Country Club, Atkinson NH

Commissioners: P. Wilson, Chairman, D. Derby (No. Hampton); M.Allen, J. Doggett (Newton); A. Carnaby, B. Kravitz (Hampton); R. Clark, M. Turell (Atkinson); D. Clement, G. English, L. Plumer (Exeter); P.Coffin, G. Coppelman (Kingston); L. Cushman (Stratham); E. Dykeman (Sandown); D. Marshall (Fremont); R. McDermott (H. Falls); P. Merrill (Kensington); T. Moore (Plaistow); P.Winslow (Rye)

Guests: D. Avril, C. Binn, J. Senter, O. Weftplahen (Plaistow Conservation Comm); R. Barham (Fremont BOS); C. Brown (H. Falls); A. Clark (Atkinson); S. Dykeman (Sandown); S. Kravitz (Hampton); J. Merrill (Kensington); K. Plumer (Exeter); R. Rule (Speaker); T. Tocci & M. Garavaglia (H. Falls); S. Turell (Atkinson); M. Winslow (Rye); L. Wilson (No Hampton); Walker Family (Glenn, Natalie, Jeffrey, Christine, Brian & Kevin)

Staff: C. Sinnott (Executive Director); G. Greenwood (Assistant Director); A. Pettengill (Business Manager); R. Rines (Office Administrator); R. Pruyne (GIS Manager); J. LaBranche (Sr. Planner); J. Rowden (Regional Planner)

SOCIAL HOUR

DINNER

ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM

I. Welcome – Phil Wilson, Chairman

Wilson thanked everyone for attending and thanked all the Committees that worked during the past year to make the Commission a better organization, namely the Executive, Legislative Policy, and Nominating Committees. He also thanked Sinnott, Pettengill, and Rines for their work all year handling all the administration of the Commission. Wilson reviewed the Agenda for the evening.

II. Year in Review – C.Sinnott, Executive Director

Sinnott noted that there were several large projects that ended the prior year so this year felt a bit like a “rebound” year, despite being very busy. He referred to the Project Card on

the tables that details the year. Other accomplishments for the staff include the new website and the e-newsletter. He commended the current staff and their longterm commitment to the agency noting the average tenure at the moment is 18 years. Through the year the staff has been looking at strategies for the future and worked closely with the Executive Committee. Both have come to the conclusion that improved and more directed communication with the member communities and the marketing defined services to those communities will ensure the RPC morphs and changes with the times.

He also thanked Wilson for his never ending support of the staff and his skill at charing meetings. Wilson outlined some of the outside forces facing the Commission, such as costs, funding, changing goals, and he commended the staff for engaging in the process of re-evaluation and thanked Marshall for volunteering to take the process to the next level and implementing new ideas.

III. Election of Officers/Executive Committee for FY 2017

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

IV. Guest Speaker: Rebecca Rule, NH Author, Humorist & Storyteller

Wilson introduced Rebecca Rule, one of the Granite State's most notable muses, as named by NH Magazine. Rebecca has a special affinity for local government and town meetings as a source of entertainment. She has written many books filled with stories of good old fashioned Yankee humor.

Rebecca delivered as promised and entertained the crowd with stories of several NH personalities and town meeting discussions.

V. Awards & Recognition

Sinnott began by awarding a Certificate of Appreciation to Assistant Director Glenn Greenwood for his recent work providing temporarily planning services to Exeter and Stratham while still managing to attend to his regular work. He stated that Greenwood is extremely knowledgeable in town planning and both Towns were grateful to have his of expertise during lapses in their staffing. The Certificate is to acknowledge and show the Commission's appreciation of his extra hours of work and additional meeting time spent to accomplish the staffing coverage for those Towns, and that he helped to showcase one of the RPC's invaluable services that we offer member communities.

Wilson noted that many commissioners give years of service to the Commission in their capacity as volunteers and each year the RPC likes to acknowledge that tenure with a Certificate of Appreciation. This year's recipients are: *D. Marshall & J. Janvrin: 5 years; R. McDermott: 10 yrs; G. English: 15 yrs; and C. Cross: 20 yrs*

Next Sinnott presented Annette Pettengill with gifts and gratitude for her 31 years of dedication to the RPC. Both Sinnott and Greenwood described the huge impact Annette has on the Commission both through her tireless efforts to manage contracts and the financial resources of the agency but also her commitment to making the office place an inviting environment for all the staff. They described her as the 'glue' that holds the RPC together and acknowledged that without her the agency would truly not have had the success it has over those 30+ years.

Hayden Award: Coppelman expressed the importance of the Hayden Award and his personal feelings about it. He told the group that his nomination of the Monahan Farm (and Walker family) was made in recognition of the many generations that have worked the East Kingston farm. He noted that the Walkers could have sold the land for development, but wanted to preserve the farm and all that it means to the many folks who go there for fruits, vegetables and PYO activities. Working with the Southeast Land Trust, the Walker family is protecting the Farm through a permanent conservation easement so that the farming tradition will continue at that location in perpetuity. Coppelman then presented the plaque to the three generations of the Walker family in attendance: Natalie (Monahan) Walker, Glenn Walker, Jeff Walker, Christine Walker, Kevin Walker and Brian Walker. Natalie Walker, on behalf of the family, expressed her deep appreciation for the Award."

Quinlan Award: Clement and Plumer presented the Quinlan award to Pete Richardson who passed in March. Clement said that it was an honor and a privilege to award this to his friend Pete because Pete had devoted so much of his life to stewardship of the land and water. He was a member and past chairman of the Exeter Conservation Commission, served on the Exeter Squamscott Local Advisory Committee, served on the Watershed Council for the Gulf of Maine, and the NH Rivers Management program and many other groups and committees over the years. He did trail work and river tours, and training and teaching throughout his whole life. He was in short a Warrior for our natural resources. Plumer added that his true passion was being out in the wilderness, kayaking, walking, or working on a trail. Accepting the award on behalf of Pete's wife was **Kristen Murphy, Town of Exeter Environmental Planner, Kristen worked very closely with Pete also and learned so much about conservation and natural resources from him. She thanked the Commission for honoring him in this way.**

Commissioner Emeritus: Sinnott presented Ted Tocci from Hampton Falls with a special Commissioner Emeritus award. McDermott nominated Tocci for this award and the Executive Committee found it especially appropriate. Tocci left a legacy of high standards to uphold after being Chairman for two years and was an invaluable commissioner representative for Hampton Falls. Sinnott stated that the biggest lesson he learned from Tocci was that we should always take ourselves seriously and remember that what we do is important, to us and to others. Tocci thanked the Commission and stated that over the years he enjoyed being part of the RPC and getting to know his fellow commissioners and the staff. His goal was always to make the RPC the best regional planning agency in the State. Due to the amazing commissioners, and Sinnott's amazing ability to choose smart, talented people to represent the agency, the goal was accomplished. He stated he will always cherish every moment and thanked everyone for the award which will reside in his new abode in Florida soon.

- VI. Other Business & Public Comment:** Wilson concluded the evening by thanking the speaker, Rebecca Rule for providing the laughter this evening. He thanked the Nominating Committee, and all the staff and commissioners for their hard work and dedication each and every year. And he thanked Sinnott for his unwavering leadership.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Prepared by:

Annette Pettengill
Recording Secretary
(with contributions from Greenwood and Sinnott)