

TOWN OF WESTERLY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – October 18, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.
Development Services Conference Room – Town Hall – 45 Broad Street

A. 5:06 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Joseph MacAndrew, Vice Chair
Faith Bessette-Zito
James J. Federico, III
Nancy Richmond

Members Absent: Gail Mallard, Chair
Stuart Blackburn
Gina T. Fuller

Liaisons Present: Catherine DeNoia, Planning Board

Staff Present: Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate

B. 5:06 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of October 4, 2017 was made by Mr. Federico and seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito. The motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

C. 5:06 P.M. DISCUSSION – FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. MacAndrew stated the committee would continue to meet every other week.

D. 5:07 P.M. GOALS AND ACTIONS

Implementation Plan – Energy Alternatives

The committee was in consensus to revise the first action as “Encourage Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation to undertake a waste-to-energy program.” and to assign the Town Council, the Town Manager and the Solid Waste Division as responsible parties. The action was assigned a short-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “while not burdening the taxpayer with higher costs.” From the second action and to assign the Town Council and Town Manager as responsible parties. The action was assigned a short-term and ongoing time-length.

The committee was in consensus to revise the third action as “... for the town, such as researching cost-benefit data on renewable energy use in comparable municipalities nationwide.” and to assign the action the Town Council as responsible party. The action was assigned a short-term and ongoing time-length.

The committee was in consensus to revise the fourth action as “Assist National Grid in identifying and replacing utility infrastructure which is determined to be vulnerable to natural hazards” and to assign the action the Utilities Division and Highways Division as responsible parties. The action was assigned an ongoing time-length.

The fifth action was assigned the Planning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Office, Zoning Board of Review and Town Council as responsible parties and 35 work hours.

Implementation Plan – Energy Efficiencies

The committee was in consensus to revise the second policy as “Encourage the reduction of emissions of carbon dioxide, methane and other greenhouse gases in the community.”

The committee was in consensus to assign the first action the Town Manager as responsible party and an ongoing time-length.

The committee was in consensus to assign the second action the Town Manager and Buildings and Grounds Division as responsible parties and an ongoing time-length.

(Ms. Richmond exited at 5:49 p.m.)

The committee was in consensus to revise the third actions as "...for roof top solar panel installations where possible" and to assign the Town Manager and Buildings and Grounds Division as responsible parties. The action was assigned an ongoing time-length.

The committee was in consensus to assign the fourth action the Town Manager, the Fleet Maintenance Official, Police Department, Department of Public Works and School Department as responsible parties. The action was assigned an ongoing time-length.

The committee was in consensus to assign the fifth action the Town Manager, the Fleet Maintenance Official, Police Department, Department of Public Works, School Department and Purchasing Agent as responsible parties. The action was assigned an ongoing time-length.

The committee was in consensus to assign the sixth action the School Department and Human Resources as responsible parties. The action was assigned a medium-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to revise the seventh action as "... and require re-vegetation, specifically the planting of trees, in areas disturbed through..." and assign the action the Planning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Office, Zoning Board of Review, Recreation Department and Assessment Department as responsible parties. The action was assigned an ongoing time-length.

The committee was in consensus to revise the eighth action as "... surface solar heat conduction and reduce wind..." and to assign the action the Planning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Office, Zoning Board of Review and Town Council as responsible parties and 35 work hours.

Implementation Plan – Natural Hazards

The committee was in consensus to revise the first policy as "Identify, prioritize and protect at-risk municipal properties."

The committee was in consensus to revise the second policy as "Plan for eventual retreat from coastal shorelines and riparian zones in especially vulnerable areas."

The committee was in consensus to relocate the eighth action under Safe Circulation to Natural Hazards and assign the action the Planning Office, Town Manager and Emergency Management Coordinator as responsible parties and an ongoing time-length.

The committee was in consensus to revise the first action as "Determine how best to minimize opportunities for new development in vulnerable areas and amend zoning ordinances and/or subdivision regulations as needed" and to assign the action the Planning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Office, Zoning Board of Review and Town Council as responsible parties. The action was assigned a medium-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to assign the second action the Planning Office, Westerly Municipal Land Trust, Town Council and Conservation Commission as responsible parties and a short-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to revise the third action as "... better protection of the Special Flood Hazard Area and areas under regulation by the Shoreline Change Special Area Management Plan." and to assign the Building Office, Planning Office, Zoning Office, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Review as responsible parties. The action was assigned a medium-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to revise the fourth action as "Endorse the removal of the

Potter Hill dam..." and assign the Town Council and Planning Board as responsible parties. The action was assigned a short-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to assign the fifth action the Town Council and Planning Board as responsible parties and a short-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to revise the sixth action as "... Town of Stonington, Town of North Stonington, State of Connecticut... Stillman Avenue and Boombridge Road bridges to prevent..." and assign the Town Manager and Highways Division as responsible parties. The action was assigned a medium-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to insert a new action "Require any new bridges and bridge replacements crossing the Pawcatuck River to span the river without structural supports placed in its course." and assign the action the Town Council as responsible party and a medium-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to revise the seventh action as "Encourage the protection and preservation of existing native vegetation in vulnerable areas." And assign the action the Westerly Municipal Land Trust, Conservation Commission, Recreation Department and Buildings and Grounds Division as responsible parties. The action was assigned an ongoing time-length.

The committee was in consensus to insert a new action "Review studies and develop strategies to address seal-level rise, storm surge and other climate change impacts on Westerly's infrastructure." The action was assigned the Emergency Management Coordinator, Town Manager, Police Department and Planning Office as responsible parties and a medium-term time-length.

The committee was in consensus to duplicate the fourth action under Energy Alternatives under Natural Hazards.

Mr. MacAndrew noted he and Ms. Mallard would be reading through the entirety of the revised draft plan to ensure consistency throughout the document.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

F. 7:07 P.M. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bessette-Zito and seconded by Mr. Federico. The motion was **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Minutes for the October 18, 2017 meeting submitted by:



Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate: