

**ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES**

May 13, 2015

Seabrook Public Library, Seabrook NH

Members Present: G. Coppelman, Chairman (Kingston); J. Doggett (Newton); D. Hawkins, F. Chase (Seabrook); P. Winslow (Rye); A. Carnaby, B. Kravitz (Hampton); S. Gerrato (Greenland); J. VanBokkelen (So. Hampton); D. Woodward, D. Clement (Exeter); M. McAndrew (New Castle); D. Marshall (Fremont); B. Goodrich (Stratham); P. Wilson (No. Hampton); M. Turell (Atkinson); T. Moore (Plaistow); J. Whitney, P. Merrill (Kensington); C. Cross (Newington)

Guests: Sunny Kravitz (Hampton); Aboul Khan (Seabrook)

Staff: C. Sinnott (Executive Director); A. Pettengill (Business Manager)

- I. **Chairman Coppelman convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.** and thanked Seabrook and the Town Manager for hosting and thanked Aboul Khan for providing the snacks. Coppelman also announced two new commissioners: Peter Coffin from Kingston and Thomas McCormick from Rye (neither present this evening).
- II. **Planning Update for Seabrook:** Khan welcomed everyone in attendance to Seabrook and Hawkins gave a brief update on current and recent planning projects in Town and warrant article items of interest.

III. Minutes from April 8, 2015

*Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of April 8, 2015 as presented; Turell seconded. **SO VOTED.***

IV. Review/Adopt Draft FY 2016 Budget

Sinnott referred to Attachment 2 and reviewed the proposed FY 2016 Budget that the Executive Committee has been reviewing since February when there was a large gap in the funding. He reviewed several changes since the last time the Executive Committee saw this budget, and he explained that the gap has been filled at this point, resulting in a narrowly balanced budget. He explained that there is always some uncertainty at this time of year, however, this year was more concerning. He is confident however, that the known funding and the usual accumulated projects that will come along in the year will be sufficient after all. He also noted that the Executive Committee recommends increasing the hourly rate from \$58 to \$62 as the current

rate is lower than it costs the agency to function. He also stated that the current Salaries line item does not include any salary adjustments for staff in the new year.

Doggett noted he didn't see a dues rate increase in the Budget proposal and asked about the increase that occurred several years ago and the plan that was put in place at that time to increase the dues yearly. Sinnott explained that there was an increase in FY 10 to 93 cents per capita with a plan to increase yearly thereafter based on the Consumer Price Index; however, the economy tanked and no increase was put forth for the next four years until FY 15 when it increased to 96 cents per capita. Discussion followed on re-recruiting non-dues paying members and possible MS4 funding options that will become available.

*Doggett moved to adopt the FY 16 RPC Budget as presented; Chase seconded. **SO VOTED.** (GC & JB abstained)*

Doggett suggested that the Executive Committee take a look at another dues increase and a consistent plan for future increases, at their next meeting.

V. Report of the Nominating Committee – Proposed Slate for FY 2016

Whitney referred to Attachment 3 – Proposed Slate and noted that a vote will be taken on June 10, 2015 at the Annual Meeting.

VI. NHOEP Targeted Block Grant Authorization for FY 2016

Sinnott explained that this TBG grant is much like last year's, however Task D Education & Training has been added. This was a task that used to be part of the TBG funding, and Staff suggested that more education & training, like technical advisory memos and planning board training workshops, are needed again in the region.

*Doggett moved to authorize the Executive Director to enter into and accept funds from NHOEP for Targeted Block Grant; Turell seconded. **SO VOTED.***

VII. Information Items

- A. WISE II: Sinnott noted that it's very possible that the National Estuarine Research Reserve Program proposal to expand the WISE Integrated Watershed Management pilot to the Exeter Watershed, will get funded. The RPC's role would be to find the right formula to blend non-regulated communities with regional communities and implement fertilizer controls, educate planning boards, and work especially closely with Fremont, Sandown and Brentwood.
- B. Phase 3 I-93 CTAP: Sinnott explained there will be an invitation to apply for funding for the Phase 3 CTAP program. The NH Dept of Transportation will implement the LPA process for this project and each project will be no smaller than \$200k.

VIII. Commissioner Roundtable: Each Commissioner present spoke about their town's warrant article items and other items of interest during their Town meeting.

IX. Other

- A. Communications: Ocean Blvd Project TIGER application letter – Sinnott distributed a copy of the support letter he wrote on behalf of the Ocean Blvd TIGER application. *Turell moved to approve the letter as written; Merrill seconded. **SO VOTED.***
VanBokkelen noted two changes.
*Turell moved to approve the letter as amended; Merrill seconded. **SO VOTED.***

Salem Membership: Sinnott explained that the Town of Salem is looking for Brownfield funds and the Rockingham Economic Development Corp. suggested they talk to the RPC about rejoining in order to get consideration for those funds. The current Town Manager is very supportive of approaching the Selectmen about rejoining the Commission in March. Sinnott also noted that Raymond is beginning the process to move to our region.

- B. Legislative Update: Kravitz stated that the focus of the Committee this year is to concentrate on fewer Bills and do a better job tracking those particular Bills.
- C. Annual Meeting: June 10th, Zorvino Vineyards, Sandown 6-9 p.m.; Guest Speaker is Jack Ruderman, Revision Energy
- D. Other

X. Public Comment

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Pettengill
Recording Secretary