

Minutes

Rockingham Planning Commission September 12, 2018

Exeter Public Library Exeter, NH

Commissioners Present: B. Kravitz, Chairman (Hampton); R. Clark (Atkinson); G. English, D. Clement (Exeter); P. Pelletier (Salem); J. Foley (Epping); L. Cushman, L. Gagnon (Stratham); M. McAndrew (New Castle); A. Davis (Hampstead); A. Brubaker, R. McDermott (Hampton Falls); M. Turell (Atkinson); G. Coppelman (Kingston); P. Britz (Portsmouth); C. Cross (Newington); J. Kiszka (Plaistow); D. Hawkins (Seabrook); G. Gott, C. McCarthy (Raymond); J. Doggett (Newton); P. Wilson (North Hampton)

Guests: S. Kravitz (Hampton); L. Wilson (North Hampton);

Staff: T. Roache (Executive Director); A. Pettengill (Business Manager); J. LaBranche (Sr. Planner); T. Walker (consultant)

1. Kravitz convened the meeting at 7 p.m. and introductions were made around the room

2. Minutes of August 8, 2018

Typographical corrections were noted, and it was noted that a change be made to Item #6, 2nd paragraph, "Pelletier introduced himself....." instead of "Donahue introduced himself....."

It was also noted that D. Swett should be listed as a Guest; and P. Pelletier should be listed as a Commissioner for Salem. *Doggett moved to approve the Minutes of August 8, 2018 with miscellaneous corrections; Clark seconded. **SO VOTED.** (2 abstentions)*

3. MS4 Mapping and Process Update – J. LaBranche, Sr. Planner

Roache introduced Julie LaBranche, Sr. Planner with RPC. LaBranche began by explaining the MS4 permit as a municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit issued by the EPA under the Clean Water Act. It aims to reduce pollution from municipal sources, including roads and private development by

regulating erosion/sediment and stormwater. She noted that 44 towns in NH are subject to the Clean Water Act. She stated that several RPC's are working together in a working group to share information and accurately map the greater southeastern portion of NH. All impaired waters in the RPC region and SRPC region have been mapped and will be available on the RPC website soon. The RPC is helping communities completed their municipal audits and verify what tasks each community will need help with and where they are in their process. She further explained some of the requirements of the MS4 Permit, which includes submitting a notice of Intent, preparing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and completing the annual report to EPA, along with mapping outfalls to surface waters & connected wetlands, catch basins and drainage swales and other infrastructure components, and finding and working towards correcting illicit discharges and illegal tie-ins, and nonpoint sources of pollution. She continued by explaining all the processes and procedures that staff of the RPC has been helping MS4 communities with. A question and answer period followed.

4. Review of Local Regulation of Agriculture Toolkit – Theresa Walker, Consultant and Durham Agriculture Commission Chair

Roache introduced Theresa Walker, Consultant for the RPC. Walker began with a pop quiz relating to agriculture in NH. She explained that State law in NH enables and favors agriculture, so you can regulate it but you cannot disallow it. She noted there are more farms embedded in our towns and more diversification of farms now. Towns need to plan for agriculture and food systems to promote agriculture viability, food security, sustaining the rural character we love in NH and the stewardship of all that land owned by famers that directly affects our quality of life. She further explained that the NH Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture has prepared a Toolkit for Local Regulation of Agriculture. That toolkit basically asks if your community is Farm Friendly via a checklist for municipal planning and includes a local agriculture regulations flowchart and other resources as well. She noted that the Coalition is now working on Model Site Plan Review regulations. A question and answer period followed.

5. NH 10 Year Statewide Economic Development Plan – Update

Roache explained that in 2017 the Business of Economic Affairs replaced DRED and their primary mandate was a 10 year Plan for Statewide Economic Development. He noted that the 9 regional planning commissions in the State proposed to do the State Economic Plan, however the contract was awarded to an outside company in Pennsylvania. There will be public hearing sessions open to the public regarding that Plan. Also on September 26th the RPC's will meet to review and give their input to the Plan. Roache will post the meeting information and continue to keep commissioners updated.

He also noted on a related topic: there are Opportunity Zones developed by the NH Dept of Business and Economic Affairs targeting economic

development in Seabrook & Raymond. There will be a hearing on October 2nd which he will attend and he will reach out to those towns to make sure they are prepared to send representatives as well.

6. Commission Meeting Schedule and Topics

Roache referred to Attachment 2 and noted that October's meeting will be in Raymond and will focus on recycling challenges facing the communities. He asked that anyone with a specific request for a topical meeting should contact him. McCarthy asked if solar panels might be a good topic for a future meeting.

Roache also noted that if you are a resident of Exeter, Stratham, South Hampton, Newfields, East Kingston, Epping, or Seabrook you are invited to bring your household hazardous waste to a collection at the Exeter DPW garage on Saturday, October 20th, 8-1 p.m. He displayed the flyer that the RPC contracted SRPC's staff to prepare advertising the collection and noted that the rpc's are looking to share services and staff resources in the future as well.

Roache announced that Dave Walker, Transportation Manager at the RPC, was appointed Assistant Director. He noted that he's been managing the entire transportation program for many years now, including the transportation budget and will fill the role of Assistant Director allowing Roache to focus more on promotion with the towns and regional planning goals. Roache stated he looks forward to collaborating with him. Congratulations were extended to Dave Walker from the audience.

Kravitz noted that the RPC is working in areas it never has before and welcomes contact and suggestions from its members.

7. Public Comment – none

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Pettengill, Recording Secretary