

TOWN OF WESTERLY  
**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting – March 8, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.  
Development Services Conference Room – Town Hall

**A. 6:06 P.M. CALL TO ORDER**

**Members Present:** Gail Mallard, Chair  
Joseph T. MacAndrew, Vice Chair  
Faith Bessette-Zito  
Stuart Blackburn  
James J. Federico, III  
Nancy N. Richmond

**Members Absent:** Gina T. Fuller

**Liaisons Present:** Catherine DeNoia, Planning Board

**Staff Present:** Jason Parker, Town Planner  
Benjamin Delaney, Recording Secretary

**B. 6:06 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of February 22, 2017 was made by Mr. MacAndrew and seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito. By a unanimous vote, the motion was **CARRIED**.

**C. 6:06 P.M. DISCUSSION FUTURE MEETINGS**

The committee was in consensus to meet at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 if a special meeting of the Planning Board was scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on the same date.

**D. 6:08 P.M. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

***Appendix I – Infrastructure and Energy***

***5.3 Sanitary Sewer System***

Mr. Blackburn recommended information should be reviewed to ensure it was up-to-date and accurate.

Mr. MacAndrew questioned if there was a *Wastewater Facilities Plan* more up-to-date than the 1999 revised plan. He recommended additional detail be added to “The Town is... in the system.”

Mr. Blackburn suggested an implementation action be added regarding “The Town is... in the system.”

Ms. Mallard stated for Mr. MacAndrew the 2010 Comprehensive Plan cited concern about the capacity and effect(s) on the Pawcatuck River of an expanded sewer system and called for close review of any planned expansion.

Ms. Richmond noted the cost of sewer system expansion was also a concern.

Mr. Parker suggested “The impacts of... future decision making.” be revised as “The impacts of climate change and sea-level rise may direct future decision making.”

Ms. Mallard recommended “In addition to... by the Town.” be revised to not imply the Town had regulatory requirements for wastewater systems.

Mr. Parker suggested "In addition to... by the Town." be revised as "In addition to... for Groundwater Quality. They are not regulated by the Town."

Mr. Federico, noting a comment by Mr. Blackburn, questioned if the Town was actively considering extending the sanitary sewers to areas not currently served.

Mr. Parker stated the Town may seek to extend the sanitary sewer system in the future.

Mr. Blackburn recommended an implementation action be included on planning for future sewer system expansion.

#### **5.4 Stormwater System**

Ms. Mallard and Mr. MacAndrew stated their beliefs the storm drainage collection and treatment system in Misquamicut was removed.

Mr. Parker confirmed for Mr. MacAndrew, citing "After a private... responsibility for maintenance," the Town does not assume responsibility for maintenance in all cases.

Mr. MacAndrew recommended "After a private... responsibility for maintenance." be revised to state the Town assumed maintenance responsibility only for roads which were constructed to Town standards.

Mr. Parker suggested "After a private... responsibility for maintenance." be revised as "After a private developer constructs a basin associated with a public improvement, the Town may assume the responsibility for maintenance upon construction to Town design standards and Town acceptance.

Mr. MacAndrew questioned if the flood resiliency program should be discussed in the section.

Mr. Federico recommended "An engineering study... to move forward." be reviewed to ensure it was up-to-date.

Ms. Mallard recommended "The Town should... and collaborative maintenance" be relocated from the appendices to the primary report if the committee wanted to maintain the recommendation.

Mr. Parker stated he would seek confirmation the Town was still involved in the Partnership for Rhode Island Streetlight Management (PRISM).

Mr. Parker clarified for Ms. Mallard, who questioned the consistency of "While natural gas... the need arises," natural gas service could not be supplied to the whole town but could be expanded. He suggested "National Grid continues to make routine improvements and upgrades to their distribution system within the town" be added as a final sentence to the section.

#### **5.5 Alternative Energy Production**

Mr. MacAndrew noted he provided the committee text to revise "The Planning Board denied... important aquifer resource."

Mr. Parker confirmed he would research the previous solar energy installation proposal on White Rock Road.

Ms. DeNoia noted there was no mention of considering rooftop solar panel installations.

Ms. Mallard questioned if there should be an ordinance to regulate the location of alternative energy production installations.

Ms. DeNoia stated the Town should consider rooftop solar panel installations on its facilities.

Mr. Parker confirmed there was an ordinance regulating wind energy production systems.

Discussion was held regarding the ordinance.

Ms. Mallard questioned if there should be an implementation action to review and consider updating the ordinance.

Ms. Richmond noted there was no reference to water turbines.

Ms. Mallard, citing “Westerly has made... and solar power,” stated the Town had not made great strides in promoting large scale wind or solar power.

### **5.6 Communications**

Ms. Mallard questioned if the proposed fiber optic infrastructure installation project was abandoned.

Mr. Parker clarified the project would use existing infrastructure to generate revenue and provide a higher level of service than surrounding municipalities.

Ms. Richmond noted a similar project was successfully completed in the City of Chattanooga (State of Tennessee).

Ms. DeNoia stated the project would encourage soft industries.

Mr. Parker stated for Ms. Mallard the Town would lease its public utility spaces to internet providers for installing fiber optic infrastructure to provide access for interested consumers town-wide. He confirmed the project would not be funded by taxpayers.

## **Appendix I – Services and Facilities**

### **6.2 Emergency Services**

Ms. Mallard recommended information should include date references.

Mr. Federico clarified the Bradford Fire Department had been disestablished and the Bradford Fire District still existed.

Ms. DeNoia recommended the Town of Westerly Fire Departments table be revised to reflect Bradford Fire Department, Shelter Harbor Fire Department and Weekapaug Fire Department were disestablished. She questioned if the Police Department’s dispatch center was updated.

Ms. Mallard recommended “It has been... Group in 2013” be revised as “It has been... Group in 2013, which merged with the Yale-New Haven Health System in 2016.”

Mr. Parker confirmed more up-to-date data on South County Health would be included.

### **6.3 Public Schools**

Mr. Delaney noted enrollment data would be updated.

### **6.2 Emergency Services**

Ms. DeNoia stated Westerly Nursing Home was renamed Royal of Westerly Nursing Center.

### **6.3 Public Schools**

Ms. Bessette-Zito questioned where the 2017 closure of Bradford Elementary School should be discussed.

Mr. Parker suggested a sentence be added that “In 2017, the Westerly School Committee voted to close Bradford Elementary School.”

Mr. MacAndrew recommended “At the conclusion... Westerly Middle School.” be revised as “At the conclusion of the 2008-2009 academic year, the Westerly School Department closed Tower Street

Elementary School... Westerly Middle School.”

Ms. Mallard questioned if “ The 2015 Facilities... the school system.” remained accurate.

Mr. Parker suggested “The 2015 Facilities... Street Elementary School.” be revised as “The 2015 Facilities... Street Elementary School, which was rejected by voters in a 2016 referendum.”

Discussion was held regarding performance measures and the committee was in consensus to request Ms. Fuller provide clarifying text.

#### **6.4 Solid Waste Disposal**

Ms. Mallard recommended “In the future... food-waste composting program.” be relocated from the appendices to the primary report if the committee wanted to maintain the recommendation.

Mr. Parker confirmed for Ms. DeNoia he would confirm if Earth Care Farm in the Town of Charlestown was no longer accepting compost material from Westerly.

Ms. DeNoia recommended an implementation action be included on achieving the state’s goal for recycling.

#### **6.5 Westerly Library**

Ms. DeNoia stated the circulation desk and technology lab were completed and she was unsure if the teenager space was completed.

#### **6.6 Social Service Agencies and Programs**

Ms. DeNoia noted a part-time position assisting victims of domestic abuse was established by the Jonnycake Center of Westerly.

Ms. Bessette-Zito questioned if there was additional information on the 2011 assessment.

#### **6.7 Energy**

Ms. Bessette-Zito questioned if any of the referenced actions from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan or recommendations from the 2012 Johnson Controls, Inc. (JCI) report were completed.

Mr. MacAndrew recommended a citation be added to WWTP to clarify the initialism as Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Energy Usage in Non-School Municipal Buildings, 2011 table.

Ms. Mallard noted the JCI recommendations were not Town recommendations.

Mr. Blackburn stated there were several potential implementation actions included in the section.

Mr. MacAndrew recommended a citation be added to WWTP to clarify the initialism as Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Energy Savings from Implementation of Recommended ECMs table.

#### **E. 7:39 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **F. 7:39 P.M. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. MacAndrew and seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito. By a unanimous vote, the motion was **CARRIED**.

Minutes for the March 8, 2017 regular meeting submitted by:  
Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Benjamin Delaney". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a large, light blue, hand-drawn loop that starts to the left of the signature and ends to the right, framing the name.