

TOWN OF WESTERLY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – March 22, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.
Development Services Conference Room – Town Hall

A. 6:00 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, Planning Associate

B. 6:00 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. MacAndrew, seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito, to approve the minutes of March 8, 2017.
Motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

C. 6:00 P.M. DISCUSSION FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Mallard stated future meetings would be scheduled for April 5 and April 19, 2017 and would not conflict with the new schedule of the School Committee.

Mr. Blackburn stated he would be unable to attend the meeting on April 5.

The committee was in consensus to complete its review of the appendices and maps and conduct a brief second overview of recommendations made by committee members to consider including in the draft Primary Report.

Ms. Mallard stated for Mr. Parker her expectation the committee's review could be completed in May 2017.

Mr. Parker stated for Ms. Mallard his expectation the Planning Board would request some representation from the committee be present during the Board's review of the draft Comprehensive Plan.

D. 6:10 P.M. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Appendix I – Transportation Network

Section 7.2

Mr. Delaney stated for Mr. Blackburn information in Figure 7-1 was required to be included in the Comprehensive Plan and confirmed for the committee the data shown were for the Town of Westerly.

Mr. MacAndrew recommended roadways cited in "It encompasses Elm... and coastal neighborhoods." be listed in a directional organization from west to east.

The committee was in consensus to remove Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun from the discussion of traffic volumes and safety.

Ms. DeNoia recommended Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun be contacted to request their numbers of employees residing in the town.

Mr. Delaney stated for Ms. Mallard 2005 traffic volumes were sourced from the 2010 Comprehensive Plan and updated traffic volumes were requested but not received from the Westerly Police Department.

Mr. Federico recommended updated traffic volumes be sought.

Mr. MacAndrew noted the intersection of East Avenue and Watch Hill Road was incorrectly identified as an intersection of Beach Street and East Avenue.

Discussion was held regarding traffic volumes.

Ms. Bessette-Zito suggested information regarding traffic fatalities be updated.

Ms. DeNoia recommended "For the first... town in 2015." be revised to cite the traffic fatality average over a five-year period.

Section 7.3

Ms. Mallard recommended "While most of... availability of parking." be eliminated as data were not collected to support the finding.

Mr. Blackburn recommended "While most of... availability of parking." be revised as "While most of... needs, Watch Hill, Misquamicut and Downtown are areas of concern."

Discussion was held regarding "Particularly in recognizing... additional parking structure." and the committee was in consensus to revise the sentence as "Shared parking arrangements between day and evening uses and identifying properties which provide opportunities for additional parking would help to alleviate parking congestion."

Ms. Mallard recommended "...as another area where parking was, and as of 2016 continues to be,..." be eliminated from "In a survey conducted... be, an issue."

Section 7.4

Ms. DeNoia noted the section should be renamed as "Public Transit Service."

Mr. MacAndrew recommended "... Rural Ride Flex (301), which is regularly operated each Friday and..." be revised as "...Rural Ride Flex (301), which operates each Friday and..." He also recommended "Westerly Station" be clarified as "Westerly railroad station (Westerly Station)" and Stilson Road be identified as located in Richmond.

Ms. DeNoia recommended "In addition, van services are offered through the Westerly Senior Center and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center." be added as a final sentence in the section.

Ms. Mallard recommended "Previously, Westerly Station... nearby the station." be revised as "Westerly Station has been an important component of the downtown area. However, currently (2017), the station is closed to ticket sales and services and the federal long-range plans for the enhancement of high speed rail along the Northeast Corridor may bypass Westerly Station altogether."

Mr. MacAndrew recommended a goal, policy or action should be considered for inclusion in the draft Primary Report.

Section 7.5

Mr. Parker confirmed for Mr. MacAndrew the Town enforced sidewalk snow removal.

Ms. Bessette-Zito recommended "As vulnerable road users," be eliminated from "As vulnerable road... those who walk."

Ms. DeNoia recommended "At the beginning... some neighboring roadways." be eliminated.

Section 7.6

Mr. MacAndrew recommended "...the Y..." be revised as "...the Ocean Community YMCA..."

Section 7.7

Discussion was held regarding "A status report... at Canal Street)."

Ms. Bessette-Zito recommended "...2017 through 2025, to align the asset management based system the state is currently shifting to." be revised as "...2017 through 2025, to align the asset management based system to which the state is currently shifting."

Mr. Parker recommended "Projects not included... Street (Route 1A)." be revised as "Projects which were proposed but not included... Street (Route 1A)."

Ms. Mallard stated "...and the Town should seek additional alternative funding to implement other transportation projects." should be eliminated and considered for inclusion in the draft Primary Report. She recommended "The Engineering Division has been historically proactive in designing and implementing a program for... roads and bridges." be revised as "The Engineering Division designs and implements a program for the rehabilitation and maintenance of local roads and bridges."

Section 7.8

Mr. MacAndrew stated a boat launch was not located at Misquamicut State Beach and questioned what the four locations were where the State of Rhode Island offered for boat access.

Discussion was held regarding State-owned boat access locations and the committee identified locations as Bradford Landing, Post Office Lane (near Potter Hill dam), Main Street and Avondale Road.

Ms. Richmond recommended "In 1993, the... with physical disabilities." be eliminated.

Mr. MacAndrew recommended "One additional launch... at Chapman Pond." be eliminated.

Ms. Mallard stated a sentence on the Chapman Pond boat ramp should be included though its placement should depend on whether it is maintained by the Town or the State.

Mr. Parker suggested the text regarding the draft Harbor Management Plan be updated.

Section 7.9

Ms. Mallard overviewed previous discussions on Westerly State Airport and discussion was held by the committee regarding its review of the section to be held during its meeting on April 5, 2017.

Mr. Parker stated he would be attending a meeting at Westerly State Airport and would request information from an airport representative and the methodologies for finding the information.

Ms. Mallard stated she would prepare a draft revision for the committee to base its discussion on.

Mr. MacAndrew stated he would prepare a draft revision for the committee to base its discussion on regarding greenways in the Open Space and Recreation chapter.

E. 8:01 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

F. 8:01 P.M. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. MacAndrew, seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito, to adjourn. Motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Minutes for the March 22, 2017 regular meeting submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Benjamin Delaney". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Benjamin Delaney
Planning Associate