

TOWN OF WESTERLY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – April 5, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.
Development Services Conference Room – Town Hall

A. 5:02 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Absent: Stuart Blackburn
Gina T. Fuller

Liaisons Present: Catherine DeNoia, Planning Board (entered 6:03 p.m.)

Staff Present: Jason Parker, Town Planner
Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate

B. 5:02 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. MacAndrew, seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito, to approve the minutes of March 22, 2017.
Motion **CARRIED** by a unanimous vote.

C. 5:02 P.M. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Mallard stated she had prepared a timeline for the committee to complete its review of the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Parker stated he prepared a timeline for the committee and the Planning Board to complete their reviews and noted the committee's remaining time to complete its review reflected the time set by Ms. Mallard.

The committee was in consensus that the proposed timeline was reasonable.

D. 5:04 P.M. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT PLAN

Appendix I – Transportation Network

7.9 Air Service

Ms. Mallard noted she had prepared a revised Air Service section as requested at the last meeting and overviewed what revisions were made.

Mr. Parker stated he had received a response from the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC) regarding the section that data cited should be sourced from the 2009 Airport System Plan.

Mr. MacAndrew stated baseline information should be used and maintained for consistent comparison over time.

Mr. Parker stated he would call out specific information for a representative of RIAC to verify or update and confirm the source.

Mr. MacAndrew recommended "Recently (2016), residents living... to the Town Council..." be divided into two sentences as "Recently (2016), residents living... at the airport. Residents' concerns

have been communicated through letters to the local newspaper...”

Discussion was held regarding whether the proposed sentence(s) should be revised to eliminate the reference to current litigation while maintaining the reference to residents’ general concerns.

Mr. MacAndrew stated the text should provide information clearly for any reader who may be unfamiliar with the airport and its activities.

Mr. Parker, citing “It is unclear... quasi-state agency (RIAC)”, noted the Town Solicitor had provided a legal determination to the Town.

Ms. Bessette-Zito recommended “...about potential intensification in future use.” be revised as “...about potential intensification and eminent domain in future use.”

Appendix I – Open Space and Recreation

8.1 Planning Context

Ms. Mallard requested the date of the Town’s first comprehensive plan be cited.

Mr. Parker recommended acquisitions of the Westerly Municipal Land Trust (WMLT) be cited within the bullets under 8.1.2 Local Planning Context.

Mr. Federico cited the Lucey Property, 116 Canal Street, the Shetland Drive property and the Harbor Drive property as notable acquisitions of WMLT.

Ms. Mallard recommended “The town’s accomplishments... and Recreation include:” be revised as “Several selected accomplishments of the Town.... and Recreation include:” She stated she did not possess a Conservation Lands map.

Mr. MacAndrew noted he had submitted draft text to committee members regarding open space and recommended it be inserted after “Open space is... to the public.” He recommended a goal be added for the creation of a greenway system preferably in well-head protection areas or along the Pawcatuck River.

Mr. Parker questioned if golf courses should be considered preserved lands as they were privately-owned and recommended “In the southern and southeastern portion of the Town, a substantial amount of open space is preserved by four golf courses...” be revised as “In the southern and southeastern portion of the Town, a substantial amount of open space exists on four golf courses...”

Ms. Mallard recommended text be inserted noting the Shelter Harbor Golf Club and Weekapaug Golf Club are both preserved through conservation easements.

Mr. MacAndrew recommended “Open spaces in... Space Bond referendum.” Be revised as “Open spaces in the northern section of town include the purchase of approximately 57 acres on Route 91 (Bradford Preserve).”

Ms. Mallard stated a referenced pie chart was not included. She questioned if the proposed river-walk project should be referenced.

Discussion was held regarding the viability of a river-walk.

Ms. Mallard recommended “As of spring... received public funding.” and the first bulleted text be eliminated. She questioned the greenways project along the Town’s coastal border.

Mr. Parker stated he would research the coastal greenways project and the *South County Greenspace Protection Strategy* for additional information.

Ms. Mallard clarified the Town’s Geographic Information System (GIS) was not recently funded and recommended “Westerly recently funded... System) mapping system.” be revised as “Westerly has

developed a GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping system.”

Mr. Parker suggested... “Several tools are... to development practices.” be revised.

Ms. Mallard noted the Champlin Foundation no longer offered funding for land acquisition and stated her belief the Rhode Island Foundation no longer offered funding for such purpose either.

Mr. Federico recommended the description of Bradford Preserve in the Town of Westerly Recreation Facilities table be revised to include “two lacrosse fields” and “one cross-country trail”. He questioned if a Westerly Girl Scouts Center still existed.

Ms. Mallard recommended “Other facilities listed... to the public.” be revised as “Some facilities listed...”

Ms. Richmond recommended the Bruce Ladd Memorial Dog Park be added to the Town of Westerly Recreation Facilities table.

Mr. Federico recommended the Westerly Youth Football Complex at 60 Old Hopkinton Road be relocated from the Privately Owned Recreation Facilities in Westerly table to the Town of Westerly Recreation Facilities table.

Mr. MacAndrew questioned what the River/Heritage Corridor was and stated the boat ramp owned by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management should be considered a recreational facility.

Ms. Mallard questioned if private marinas should be included as recreational facilities. She suggested the boat ramp owned by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management be included in the Water Access Points for Boating and Fishing in Westerly table.

Mr. MacAndrew recommended Watch Hill Beach be included in the Water-Based Recreation Facilities in Westerly table. He recommended right-of-ways designated by the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council be cited in the plan.

Ms. Mallard recommended the Riverfront Development subsection be eliminated.

Mr. Federico recommended “In addition to... middle school students.” be revised as “In addition to... and lacrosse program for middle school-aged students.” and “the Y” be clarified as “YMCA.”

Ms. Mallard overviewed next steps for the committee at its next meeting.

Mr. Parker confirmed he would provide the committee with access to the current draft Comprehensive Plan for their review.

E. 6:56 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

F. 6:56 P.M. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. MacAndrew, seconded by Ms. Richmond, to adjourn. Motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Minutes for the April 5, 2017 meeting submitted by:



Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate