

TOWN OF WESTERLY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – April 19, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.
Development Services Conference Room – Town Hall

A. 6:01 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

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

B. 6:01 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. MacAndrew, seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito, to approve the minutes of April 5, 2017.
Motion **CARRIED** by a unanimous vote.

C. 6:02 P.M. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Mallard overviewed the timeline discussed at the committee's previous meeting.
The committee was in consensus to change its meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for all future meetings.

D. 6:05 P.M. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT PLAN

Appendix I – Historic and Cultural Resources

Mr. MacAndrew stated his concern regarding grammar and wording used in the draft Historic and Cultural Resources chapter of draft Appendix I. He suggested the committee instead incorporate the draft chapter's new material into the Historic and Cultural Resources chapter of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan, which he believed was better written.

The committee reviewed the first section of the draft Historic and Cultural Resources chapter and was in consensus to have Mr. MacAndrew revise the Historic and Cultural Resources chapter of the 2010 Comprehensive Plan to incorporate new information for inclusion in the draft Comprehensive Plan.

Appendix I – Natural Hazards and Resiliency

Section 10.3

The committee was in consensus to revise the title of the section from "Significant Events" to "Recent Significant Events."

Section 10.4

The committee was in consensus to identify the acronyms "SLOSH" and "FIRM" as "Sea, Lake

and Overland Surges from Hurricanes” and “Flood Insurance Rate Maps,” respectively.

Ms. Mallard questioned the source of information included in Table 10-1 Summary of Natural Hazards in Westerly and if natural hazards were correctly organized by frequency.

The committee was in consensus to make four revisions to subsection 10.4.1:

1. The title of the subsection was revised from “Storm Surge” to “Storm Surge and Wind.”
2. “Atlantic Avenue, a... to wind damage.” was revised to “Atlantic Avenue, a... to wind-driven water damage and sand deposition.”
3. “, which are seasonally occupied” was eliminated from “Other areas prone... are seasonally occupied.”
4. “Hurricane- and gale-force winds can also cover...” was revised to “Hurricane and gale-force winds and storm surges can also cover...”

(Mr. Parker entered)

Mr. MacAndrew requested confirmation the source “Boothroyd, 2008” referred to Little Narragansett Bay rather than Narragansett Bay.

The committee was in consensus to make two revisions to subsection 10.4.4:

1. The title of the subsection was revised from “High Winds and Thunderstorms” to “Thunderstorms.”
2. “Human vulnerability is... and sparks fires.” was eliminated from the subsection.

The committee was in consensus to make three revisions to subsection 10.4.5:

1. “Repair and snow... of the season.” was eliminated from the subsection.
2. “Excessive cold may... from exposed skin.” was eliminated from the subsection.
3. “However, severe winter... and during nor’easters.” was eliminated from the subsection.

The committee was in consensus to make four revisions to subsection 10.4.6:

1. “It extends north into Rhode Island and west into Connecticut, encompassing all or...” was revised as “The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed extends north and east into Rhode Island and north into Connecticut, encompassing all or...”
2. “For example, the Stillman Avenue Bridge is particularly vulnerable to flood events and debris buildup.” was added to follow the sentence ending “...of bridge abutments.”
3. “In 2010, these...” was revised as “On March 30, 2010, these...”
4. “The Pawcatuck River reached a new record level, exceeding the previous record which was set by storm surge from the 1938 Hurricane. The Pawcatuck River was so severely impacted that it did not recede below flood stage until April 12.” was revised as “The Pawcatuck River reached a new flow record and was so severely impacted that it did not recede below flood stage until April 12, 2010.”

Mr. MacAndrew requested confirmation of the number of bridges crossing the Pawcatuck River to or from the Town.

Ms. Mallard requested confirmation the source “Vallee and Dion, 1998” referred to Little Narragansett Bay rather than Narragansett Bay.

E. 7:52 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Richmond, as a private citizen, noted she had received comments from citizens regarding their concerns about the future of Westerly State Airport and the relationship between the Town and the airport.

Discussion was held regarding how Westerly State Airport would be best discussed in the draft Comprehensive Plan and what the Town could do to address citizens’ concerns relating to airport activities.

F. 8:07 P.M. ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes for the April 19, 2017 meeting submitted by:



Benjamin Delaney

Benjamin Delaney
Planning Associate