

TOWN OF WESTERLY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – May 4, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.
Development Services Conference Room – Town Hall

A. 5:01 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

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

Members Absent: Stuart Blackburn
Gina T. Fuller
Nancy N. Richmond

Liaisons Present: Catherine DeNoia, Planning Board

Staff Present: Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate

B. 5:01 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Mr. MacAndrew, seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2017.
Motion **CARRIED** by a unanimous vote.

C. 5:01 P.M. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The committee was in consensus to continue at 5:00 p.m. every other Wednesday.
Ms. Mallard outlined the work remaining for the committee.

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

Appendix I – Natural Hazards and Resiliency
Section 10.4

The committee was in consensus to make two revisions to subsection 10.4.7:

1. “The headlands and barriers of the...” was revised to “The headlands and barrier beaches of the...”
2. Insert the sentence “A significant portion of the sand has since washed out to sea.” to the end of the paragraph “Westerly has experienced...Nov. 5, 2013).”

Ms. Mallard requested clarification on “a” in the citation for the sentence “In addition, the... their historic counterparts”

The committee requested a draft sentence be prepared to follow the sentence “As SLR increases... businesses and roadways” regarding dune restoration programs through planting grasses and that the prevention of dune erosion through grass planting be considered for inclusion in the draft Primary Report as an action item.

The committee was in consensus to make three revisions to subsection 10.4.8:

1. Revise “... (Dam No. 255)...” to “... (Dam No. 255, which was removed in 2016)...”

2. Revise "... Blue Pond Dam in Hopkinton." as "...Blue Pond Dam in Hopkinton and the Hewitt Farm Dam in North Stonington (Connecticut)."
3. Insert the sentence "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently in the process of removing the Bradford Dam and installing rock ramps." to the paragraph "The spring rains...they did not fail (Benson, 2010)."

Mr. MacAndrew requested the existence of each dam noted in the subsection be confirmed and that the removal of the Potter Hill Dam be considered as goal for inclusion in the draft Primary Report.

The committee was in consensus to make two revisions to subsection 10.4.9:

1. Revise "Westerly is a... composed of beaches." as "Westerly is a... "composed of beaches and wetlands."
2. Revise "Fires can occur... the right conditions." as "Fires can occur... the right conditions due to the grasses and underbrush found in these areas."

The committee was in consensus to make two revisions to subsection 10.4.10:

1. Revise the sentence "Drought differs from other natural hazards in that they typically occur suddenly whereas a drought evolves over... little structural damage, can have profound..." as "Drought evolves over... little structural damage, unlike other natural hazards which typically occur suddenly. Drought can have profound..."
2. Relocate the sentence "Land use activity... additional 106 acres (RI Health, 203)." to the appropriate section in chapter five of draft Appendix I and revise as needed to also note the presence of industrial use.

The committee was in consensus to make one revision to subsection 10.4.11:

1. Eliminate the sentence "The ultimate cause of these deep ruptures has not been established."

The committee was in consensus to one revision to subsection 10.4.12:

1. Eliminate "of the drinking water reservoir." from the sentence "Increased precipitation can... drinking water reservoir."

Ms. Mallard requested the simulated climate models referenced be reviewed to confirm if Westerly could be cited in place of Jamestown.

Appendix I – Historic and Cultural Resources

The committee was in consensus to make two revisions to subsection 10.4.7:

1. Revise "There are also... and Wilcox Park" to include the Perry Homestead as a seventh historic district on the National Register of Historic Place.

2. Revise “The Westerly Land Trust is currently embarking on an ambitious urban initiative to create a gateway to the town along Main Street and the riverfront which includes renovation the United Theatre “For example, the Westerly Land Trust is presently renovating the United...” as “For example, the Westerly Land Trust is currently renovating the United...”

Ms. DeNoia requested the text regarding the Shore Commercial – Watch Hill zoning district be revised if a recently proposed zoning amendment to the district was adopted by the Town Council.

Mr. MacAndrew requested verification of the timeline of work for the Lanphear Livery Stable renovation.

Ms. Mallard requested verification of the name of the association supporting the Westerly Library.

Appendix I – Housing Opportunities

The following confirmations and clarifications of data were accepted by the committee:

1. Population calculations of Washington County had been revised to include the population of Exeter and that the reference to a 4.5 percent population growth for the county remained accurate.
2. Westerly’s population over the age of 55 was estimated to 38.1 percent of Westerly’s total population by 2020.
3. The discussion of property revaluations cited median values and associated tables cited average values. The committee was in consensus to revise the tables to cite median values.
4. The sentence “The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Continuum of Care (CoC) Annual Progress Reports for 2015 and 2016 respectively identify 142 and 163 individuals experienced homelessness in Westerly” was inserted at the end of the paragraph “The National Coalition...an emergency shelter.”
5. The sentences “... in Washington County. To assist individuals...” were revised as “... in Washington County. The WARM Center currently operates at full capacity and is sheltering approximately 80 individuals; the organization is also aware of 40 additional people (also approximate) experiencing homelessness outside the WARM shelter. To further assist individuals...”
6. The margin of error cited may change due to updated information to be provided by the consultant based on comments from the Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program.

The committee was in consensus to review subsection 2.7.5 for discussion at its next meeting.

Ms. Mallard requested the Planning Office provide a link to the Zoning Ordinance to review existing regulations on in-law apartments.

Appendix I – Economic Vitality

The following confirmations and clarifications of data were accepted by the committee:

1. The sentence “NECTAs are very similar to metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) but they are used only in New England and are geographically composed of municipalities rather than counties.” was added to follow “...and Town Area (NECTA).”

2. The citations "(Ledyard, Connecticut) and "(Uncasville, Connecticut)" were revised as "(Ledyard, Connecticut; 420 employees)" and "(Uncasville, Connecticut; employment data unavailable)", respectively.
3. "About 6,000 total" was eliminated from the sentence "The facility employs... products and treatments."
4. Subsection 3.3.1 should note the previous upgraded bond rating by Moody's and be revised as a single paragraph.
5. AGFA Healthcare's facility remains in operation.

E. 6:59 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

F. 6:59 P.M. ADJOURNMENT

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

Minutes for the May 4, 2017 meeting submitted by:



Benjamin Delaney
Planning Associate