

TOWN OF WESTERLY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – December 13, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
Development Services Conference Room – Town Hall – 45 Broad Street

A. 5:41 P.M. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Gail Mallard, Chair
Faith Bessette-Zito
Stuart Blackburn
James J. Federico, III

Members Absent: Joseph MacAndrew, Vice Chair
Gina T. Fuller
Nancy Richmond

Liaisons Present: Catherine DeNoia, Planning Board

Staff Present: Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate

B. 5:41 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of November 29, 2017 was made by Ms. Bessette-Zito and seconded by Mr. Blackburn. The motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

C. 5:41 P.M. DISCUSSION – FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Mallard stated the Board's next meeting would be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

D. 5:43 P.M. DISCUSSION – DRAFT PRIMARY REPORT AND APPENDICES

Appendix I: Economic Vitality

Page 9

The committee was in consensus to eliminate the sentence "Its relation to accommodation and food services is important to recognize and support."

Page 11

The committee was in consensus to eliminate the sentence "While land constraints and use will likely limit the ability for new producers to be established in Westerly, the town should support the continued operation of its current producers and seek opportunities to assist in expanding operations whenever possible such as through the promotion of agritourism." and include "support the continued operation of current agricultural and aquacultural producers and seek opportunities to assist in expanding operations whenever possible, such as through the promotion of agritourism." as an action item, if not already in the implementation plan.

Page 12

The committee was in consensus to eliminate the sentence "This area is prime location for in-fill and redevelopment and would benefit from updated land use regulations to achieve this potential."

Appendix I: Infrastructure and Energy

Page 2

The committee was in consensus to revise "... (in 1994, 1998 and 2000)..." as "... (in 1994, 1998, 2000 and 2017)..."

Pages 2-3

The committee was in consensus to eliminate the sentences “This is a potentially important resource for the Town. It would be important for the Town to preserve this critically important resource.” and include “Preserve existing water rights on land in the Town of North Stonington” as an action item, if not already in the implementation plan.

Page 6

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “, normal build-out within the district and the Misquamicut section of the sewer district between Winnapaug Pond and Maplewood Avenue” from “The plant currently... and Maplewood Avenue.”

Pages 6-7

The committee was in consensus to eliminate the sentence “One future consideration is whether the Town should consider extending the sanitary sewers to areas not currently served. This has been a contentious issue in the community and one which will require considerable informed dialogue among all interested parties. The impacts of climate change and sea-level rise may direct future decision making.

Page 9

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “The Town should explore PRISM’s findings and work to ensure the greatest cost savings and least environmental impact would result from the potential purchase and collaborative maintenance.” and include “Explore PRISM’s findings and work to ensure the greatest cost savings and least environmental impact would result from the potential purchase and collaborative maintenance.” as an action item, if not already in the implementation plan.

Page 11

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “The Town needs to adopt regulations allowing residential wind energy facilities and solar power systems and establishing standards for their design, installation, operation and maintenance to protect public health and safety and to preserve historic, natural and scenic resources.” and include “adopt regulations allowing residential wind energy facilities and solar power systems and establishing standards for their design, installation, operation and maintenance to protect public health and safety and to preserve historic, natural and scenic resources.” as an action item, if not already in the implementation plan.

Page 12

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “Westerly should monitor these technological advances and remain open to alternative approaches to power generation as they are further developed.” and include “Monitor technological advances in the use of wave action to generate energy and remain open to alternative approaches to power generation as they are further developed.” as an action item, if not already in the implementation plan.

Appendix I: Services and Facilities

Mr. Delaney noted the Planning Office would revise the figures and tables supporting the section on public schools and would contact the Westerly Education Center to provide an overview of the facility. Ms. Mallard requested Table 6-3 be clarified when revised.

Page 13

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “In the future, the Town should consider implementing a municipal composting program.” and noted an action item regarding composting was already included in the implementation plan.

Page 23

The committee requested an update on the drafting of a Strategic Energy Plan in accordance with Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank (RIIB) requirements for funding.

Appendix I: Transportation Network

Page 2

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “(as noted in previous chapters, 15.3% of total housing units are vacant for seasonal, recreational or occasional use)” from the sentence “This issue is... influxes of visitors.”

Page 5

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “and should be maintained or modified to target other safety concerns which continue to be present in the community.” from the sentence “These improvements have... in the community.” and include “Maintain or modify traffic calming measures to target safety concerns which continue to be present in the community.” as an action item, if not already in the implementation plan.

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “It is important for the Town to also begin considering the potentially transformative impact of advances in vehicle technology, such as autonomous vehicles (AVs or, more commonly, self-driving cars), on traffic flow and safety.” And include “Begin considering the potentially transformative impact of advances in vehicle technology, such as autonomous vehicles.” as an action item.

Page 9

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “The Town of Westerly should serve as a proponent for future commuter rail service, recognizing the transportation and economic benefits expansion may have.”

Page 15

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “It is unclear how much of this revenue directly benefits the Town of Westerly.”

Page 16

The committee was in consensus to revise “... to do about airport operations on...” as “... to do about the impact of airport operations on...”

The committee was in consensus to revise “Legal representatives of... on the Town as “These issues are currently (2017) under consideration by the courts. The entire dispute is complicated by the fact that there are no authoritative data on historic or recent changes to airport infrastructure and use. The Town Council has established an Airport Advisory Committee.”

E. 7:24 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

F. 7:24 P.M. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bessette-Zito and seconded by Mr. Federico. The motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Minutes for the December 13, 2017 meeting submitted by:



Benjamin Delaney

Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate: