



## TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH PLANNING BOARD

2200 East Main Road  
Portsmouth, RI 02871  
401-683-3717

### PORTSMOUTH PLANNING BOARD Special Meeting January 31, 2018

**Members Present:** Guy Bissonnette, Luke Harding, Edward Lopes, Michael James, Kathleen Wilson, Ryan Tibbetts and David Garceau.

**Members Absent:** none

**Others Present:** Gary Crosby, Town Planner, Michael Asciola, Assistant Town Planner, and Leon Lesinski, Administrative Officer, Portsmouth Planning Board  
The Meeting was called to order by Mr. Bissonnette at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Agenda Continuances/Modifications:** none

**MOTION:** Mr. Harding made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garceau, to enter into the record the following letter and email:

1. David G. Booth, Jamestown, RI, January 25, 2018
2. A. Michael Steers, [amsteers@gmail.com](mailto:amsteers@gmail.com), to Leon Lesinski, January 31, 2018

All in favor. So voted.

**2. Approval of minutes for Special Meeting of November 29, 2017**

**MOTION:** Mr. Harding made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tibbetts, to approve the minutes for the special meeting of November 29, 2017.

Mr. Lopes abstained due to his absence at the meeting.

All in favor. So voted

**3. Review the Agriculture and Drinking Water Supply Elements of the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan.**

#### **Agriculture Element**

Mr. Crosby reviewed the changes made to the Agriculture Element as they appeared in the December 1, 2017 draft. He responded to questions from the Planning Board members. In response to Mr. Tibbetts, Mr. Crosby emphasized that the draft does not define agritourism activity as a use by right. Mr. Bissonnette called for public comment.

Frederick Marano, 200 Lepas Road, member, Citizens Interested in the

Comprehensive Community Planning Process Committee (CICCPPC) presented the written comments of the committee from its meeting of January 17, 2018. He highlighted three areas that the CICCPPC seeks revisions in the draft. After discussion, the Planning Board took no actions on these requests.

Anne Fiore, 290 Frank Coelho Drive made a personal statement to thank Mr. Crosby on his work with the Agriculture Element. She also commented that a definition of agritourism in the element helps to alleviate confusion at a later date.

Mr. Bissonnette closed the public comment portion of the hearing on the Agriculture Element draft.

### **Drinking Water Supply Element**

Mr. Crosby reviewed the January 16, 2018 draft of the Drinking Water Supply Element. He noted that he has to flush out several components, incorporating excerpts from the Portsmouth Water and Fire District Water Supply System Management Plan. He answered questions from the Planning Board members. Mr. Bissonnette called for public comment.

Frederick Marano, 200 Lepes Road explained that the CICCPPC would review the Drinking Water Supply Element on the following Tuesday, February 6, 2018. He noted that he, on behalf of the CICCPPC, reached out the Portsmouth Water and Fire District to see if its board or staff members are interested in participating with the CICCPPC in the review of the Drinking Water Supply Element. Jessica Lynch, Chief Engineer, Portsmouth Water and Fire District responded declining to participate.

Mr. Marano also spoke as a private citizen and asked that his comments not be taken as a criticism. He expressed concern for the length of time taken to complete the Comprehensive Community Plan. He felt that little progress is being made on the elements and that the task is too much for Mr. Crosby and Mr. Asciola to complete given the responsibilities of their positions. He suggested that the Planning Board should consider another approach for completing the plan.

Mr. Crosby stated that he intends to have a draft of the Natural Resources Element to the Planning Board by February 14. He stated that he is working on a draft for a Request for Proposal for a consultant to support the Comprehensive Community Plan writing process as suggested by Mr. Marano. Finally he noted that the Portsmouth Economic Development Committee has reviewed the Economic Development Element and presented him with several comments. At the direction of Mr. Bissonnette, Mr. Crosby agreed to put the comments on one of the Planning Board's upcoming meeting agendas.

At 7:59 p.m., a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.  
All in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted:  
Dede Walsh  
Recording Secretary for:

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Leon Lesinski  
Administrative Officer