



**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH
PLANNING BOARD**

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

**PORTSMOUTH PLANNING BOARD
Special Meeting
March 28, 2018**

Members Present: Guy Bissonnette, Edward Lopes, Ryan Tibbetts, Michael James and Kathleen Wilson.

Members Absent: Luke Harding and David Garceau

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

2. Approval of minutes for Special Meeting of February 28, 2018

MOTION: Mr. Lopes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tibbetts, to approve the minutes for the special meeting of February 28, 2018 with the following correction: Page 3, at the end of the motion, insert "All in favor. So voted." All in favor. So voted.

3. Review the Natural Resources and Drinking Water Supply Elements of the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan.

Mr. Crosby suggested that the Planning Board consider the Natural Resources and Recreation Elements at the next scheduled special meeting of April 25, 2018. He noted that he intends to have the Planning Board consider the Natural Hazards and Climate Change Element in May and the Energy and Land Use Elements in June.

Mr. Crosby also addressed the schedule for the Request for Proposal for consultation services. He will publish the RFP the following day, March 29, 2018, followed by a pre-bid presentation on April 12, a bid opening on April 19 and a recommendation to the Planning Board at the Comprehensive Plan special meeting on April 25. Mr. Tibbetts noted that he is traveling April 12 – 26. Mr. Bissonnette suggested that the recommendation be pushed back to the Planning Board regular meeting on May 9, 2018. In response to Mr. Tibbetts, Mr. Crosby agreed to have the ratings matrix prepared by the pre-bid conference on April 12.

Frederick Marano, 200 Lepes Road, Portsmouth asked for verification on the

recommendation date. Mr. Bissonnette stated that the recommendation presentation would either be on April 25 but no later than May 9.

In response to Mr. Tibbetts, Mr. Crosby stated that the RFP stipulates a lump sum of \$45,000.00 for the scope of services. He noted that he might not be in a position to request more funding in the budget process.

Mr. Crosby reviewed the changes to the Drinking Water Supply Element draft dated March 28, 2018, that were recommended by the Citizens Interested in the Comprehensive Community Planning Process Committee (CICCPPC) and accepted by the Planning Board at the February 28 special meeting. He noted that he has to write action plans for Policy WS – 1.2, page 7 of the Water Supply Element draft.

Mr. Crosby presented the draft, dated February 25, 2018, for the Natural Resources Element. He reviewed the goal, policy statements and related action items on pages 5 – 10. The Planning Board made comments and suggestions during the review as follows:

1. Action NR – 1.1a: Change the wording to state “Consider hiring a Town Engineer.” Mr. Tibbetts raised the concern that town staff could be overburdened with the abundance of action items in the Comprehensive Plan and that a mapping of responsibilities is a critical component of the plan.
2. Action NR – 1.1i: Re-word this action item to establish the required minimum acreage for a conservation subdivision.
3. Action NR – 1.1j: Investigate the need for an overlay district for Prudence and Hog Islands with regard to drinking water.
4. Action NR – 1.2h: Insert the term “undeveloped” after the term “identified.”
5. Action NR – 1.5: Investigate the State objective for tree coverage and re-word the action item to reflect the objective.

In response to Ms. Wilson, Mr. Crosby noted that the Comprehensive Plan does not address, in a specific manner, the soil contamination at the former town dump site located off Boyd’s Lane. He clarified that he identified soils as a natural resource because wastewater treatment is dependent on soil quality. Mr. Bissonnette called for public comment.

Mr. Marano expressed concern that a town engineer could become overwhelmed in the position.

Peter Roberts, 80 Ormerod Avenue, Portsmouth spoke on his observations of the activities related to the contamination on and run-off from the old town landfill site.

4. Review the Planning Board Comprehensive Plan Workshop Schedule

The next workshop is scheduled for April 25, 2018.

At 7:47 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:

Leon Lesinski
Administrative Officer