



**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH  
PLANNING BOARD**

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

**PORTSMOUTH PLANNING BOARD  
Special Meeting  
May 23, 2018**

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

**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

**2. Approval of minutes for Special Meeting of April 25, 2018**

**MOTION:** Mr. Harding made a motion, seconded by Ms Wilson, to approve the minutes for the special meeting of April 25, 2018. The motion was carried. Messrs. Tibbetts and Lopes abstaining due to their absence at that meeting.

1. Mr. Crosby introduced Mr. Jim Riordan of Weston & Sampson. This is the company that won the RFP to help Portsmouth with its Comprehensive Community Plan. In Mr. Riordan's introduction he went over a slideshow that went over some information about himself, who will be on the project team, and a project schedule. Mr. Riordan went over the time frame in which he was looking to accomplish each task.

Mr. Bissonnette asked what Mr. Riordan was going to do to put the town on track and what can he do for the town in the next month? Mr. Riordan says that as Mr. Crosby has previously mentioned they will try to shorten the review time frame for the state-wide planning part of it. Mr. Riordan also stated that he believes the work plan is well laid out in the proposal. Once the company is under contract, they can begin working on all the elements. Mr. Riordan is thinking that by the

end of August there should be an outline of the plan but hoping to have it done before.

As of this meeting Mr. Crosby had nothing new to show the board about the recreation element.

PEDC has finally looked at the economic development element and has gone to Mr. Crosby with comments. Mr. Crosby and PEDC will be meeting next week to go over the comments.

For the June meeting, there will be the recreation element and additional comments for the economic development element. Mr. Crosby hopes to have a complete set of outlines for all of the elements.

Mr. Lopes asked about why they were not under contract yet and if it had to go back to the council. The answer being that no it does not need to go back to the Town Council it just needs signatures from Mr. Rainer and from the company. Weston & Sampson are reading over the contract before signing.

Mr. Frederick Marano, 200 Lepes Road, Vice Chair of the Citizens Interested in the Comprehensive Community Planning Process Committee—he asked for clarification about the two planning board hearings in Oct/Nov and these are the official public hearings for the Comprehensive Community Plan. Mr. Crosby is hoping that through the public workshop in June or July that the community will learn what the comprehensive plan is and what it means to the town. The workshop will also be used to educate citizens on what it is so that citizens come to the public hearings.

Ann Fiore, 290 Frank Coelho Drive, Chair of the Citizens Interested in the Comprehensive Community Planning Process Committee but she is speaking as herself not as Chairperson. Because of the problems in the past, will Mr. Rainer allow the planning office the hours needed to complete this. Mr. Crosby stated that Mr. Rainer is on board and giving him time he needs to complete the comprehensive plan.

Ms. Fiore also asked is Mr. Riordan if he or the firm are working with any other towns with their comprehensive plans. Mr. Riordan said that they are currently working with the Town of Concord, MA to update their plan. Mr. Crosby stated that the RFP mentions 4/5 other cities/towns they have helped. The RFP is available in Mr. Crosby's office to view.

Speaking as chair, Ms. Fiore made a comment to let Mr. Riordan know that the committee needs time to get a meeting together when it comes time to discuss any of the elements. So that everyone can do their due diligence and have a productive meeting and not make comments on the fly.

Mr. Marano, 200 Lepes Road, stated that the committee has a schedule published on the Secretary of State's website and with the Town Clerk's office.

2. The Recreation Element, Economic Development Element, and a review of the schedule will be available for the June 27 meeting per Mr. Crosby.
3. Mr. Crosby will publish an updated schedule next week.

At 7:30 p.m., a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. So voted.

Respectfully submitted:  
Tracy Adams  
Recording Secretary for:

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Leon Lesinski  
Administrative Officer