



**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH  
PLANNING BOARD**

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

**PORTSMOUTH PLANNING BOARD  
Special Meeting  
June 27, 2018**

**Members Present:** Guy Bissonnette, Ryan Tibbetts, David Garceau and Michael James

**Members Absent:** Luke Harding, Edward Lopes, and Kathleen Wilson

**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 March 28, 2018**

**MOTION:** Mr. Tibbetts made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to approve the minutes for the special meeting of May 23, 2018 with the following correction: Page 2, paragraph 7, line one, delete the term "is" after "Ms Fiore also asked...". All in favor. So voted.

**3. Review updated Draft of the Recreation Element of the Portsmouth Comprehensive Community Plan.**

Mr. Crosby reviewed the recent draft of the Recreation Element, dated June 21, 2018. He noted that under the "Existing Recreation and Open Space Inventory" section, he entered a reference to Section 605 – Portsmouth Home Rule Charter, which allows for the establishment of a Department of Recreation. He explained that under the "Goals, Policies and Implementation" section, there is only one goal and three policies with action items. Mr. Bissonnette called for public comment.

Anne Fiore, 290 Frank Coelho Drive, Portsmouth, Chairperson, Citizens Interested in the Comprehensive Community Planning Process Committee (CICCPPC) stated that the CICCPPC is reviewing the Recreation Element at its meeting on July 3. She requested that the item be continued until the next Planning Board workshop of July 25, when she could present the CICCPPC's comments and recommendations. The Planning Board members agreed to her request.

**4. Review suggested revisions to the Draft Economic Development Element of the Comprehensive Community Plan.**

Mr. Crosby introduced Justin Perry, Chairperson, Portsmouth Economic Development Committee (EDC) who was present to deliver the comments of the EDC. Mr. Crosby noted that he has made no changes to the Economic Development Element draft, dated September 2, 2016

Justin Perry, 135 Islington Avenue, Portsmouth, Chairperson, Portsmouth Economic Development Committee presented the EDC's recommendations for suggested changes to the Economic Element as follows:

**Action ED – 2.1d, page 30:** The EDC suggests striking "...rather than business incentive strategies."

**MOTION:** Mr. Tibbetts made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to strike "...rather than business incentive strategies." from Action ED – 2.1d and to place a period after the term "play" as a compromise phraseology. All in favor. So voted.

**Action ED – 3.2c, page 33:** The EDC suggests that "...local currency..." be stricken from the action item and that another example of a local business strategy be inserted in its place. The Planning Board tabled this suggested change until which point Mr. Crosby finds another local business strategy example to use in the action item.

**Action ED – 3.3b, page 33:** The EDC suggests that the term "regional" be inserted before the term "state" to read "...other regional, state and federal agencies...."

**MOTION:** Mr. Tibbetts made a motion, seconded by Mr. James, to insert the term "regional" before the term "state" to read "...other regional, state and federal agencies...." in Action ED – 3.3b. All in favor. So voted.

**Policy ED – 3.3, page 33:** The EDC suggests inserting Action ED – 3.3c under Policy ED – 3.3, which will read as "Task the Portsmouth Business Director to seek grants to protect businesses and infrastructure from natural hazards and climate change."

**MOTION:** Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tibbetts, to insert Action ED – 3.3c under Policy ED – 3.3 to read "Task the Portsmouth Business Director to seek grants to protect businesses and infrastructure from natural hazards and climate change." All in favor. So voted.

**Policy ED – 4.2, page 34:** The EDC suggests striking Policy ED – 4.2 because the members disagree with holding future generations or incarnations of the town government to a certain pattern of economic development. Mr. Crosby stated that the geography of the town does not support large concentrations of retail development and that the purpose of Policy ED – 4.2 is to support current land use patterns, which consist of retail nodes and clusters rather than commercial strip development or growth centers. Mr. Tibbetts stated that he does not want to preclude any development type in the element. Mr. Bissonnette suggested striking the term "around" in the policy and replacing it with the phrase "...which may include...".

Ms. Fiore, speaking as a private citizen, stated that she prefers the policy as is but inquired as to whether the Navy tank farms are a potential location for large commercial/retail development. Mr. Crosby responded that a large retail center would not go on the tank farms.

Mr. Perry, on behalf of the EDC, requested that the term "...rather than..." be deleted

from Policy ED – 4.2 because its use precludes future generations from pursuing commercial strip development and growth centers.

**MOTION:** Mr. Tibbetts made a motion, seconded by Mr. James to strike the term “around” in Policy ED – 4.2 and replace it with the phrase “...which may include...”. All in favor, so voted.

The Planning Board did not act on the EDC suggestion to delete the term “rather than...” from Policy ED – 4.2.

**Action ED – 5.3a, page 36:** The EDC suggests that the phrase “...rather than concentrate on seeking out new revenue sources for the Town.” be stricken from the action item. Mr. Crosby stated that the purpose of the EDC should be to attract and support local business in Portsmouth. Mr. Bissonnette suggested that that is accomplished by ending the action item with the phrase “...in Portsmouth...”

**MOTION:** Mr. Tibbetts made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garceau, to place a period after the phrase “...in Portsmouth.” and deleting the phrase “...rather than concentrate on seeking out new revenue sources for the Town.” All in favor. So voted.

Mr. Bissonnette called for further public comment on the Economic Development Element to which there was none.

##### **5. Review the Comprehensive Plan Workshop Schedule**

Mr. Crosby announced that the Planning Board will take up the Recreation Element and the Natural Hazard and Climate Change Element at the next workshop scheduled for July 25. He will include an update of the consultants’ progress with the Comprehensive Community Plan as an agenda item for future workshops.

At 7:39 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