



**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH  
PLANNING BOARD**

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

**PORTSMOUTH PLANNING BOARD**

**Special Meeting  
August 29, 2018**

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

**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.

Anne Fiore, 290 Frank Coelho Drive, Portsmouth, Chairperson, Citizens Interested in the Comprehensive Community Planning Process Committee (CICCPPC) requested a moment of silence in the memory of Evelyn Marano, wife of Frederick Marano, member, CICCPPC. Mrs. Marano past away the previous weekend. Mr. Bissonnette called for a moment of silence.

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

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

**MOTION:** Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Mr. Garceau, to approve the minutes for the special meeting of July 25, 2018 with the following correction: Page 1, list Mr. Tibbetts as absent. All in favor. So voted. Mr. Tibbetts abstaining from the vote.

**3. Review the Natural Hazards & Climate Change Element and the Energy Element of the Comprehensive Community Plan**

Mr. Crosby stated that the Natural Hazards & Climate Change Element is not fully prepared for Planning Board review but will be ready for the September workshop. He stated that the workshop schedule remains on track. He noted that the consultant intends to send the Economic Development and Service & Facilities elements to Statewide Planning within a week.

Mr. Crosby gave a review of the Energy Element to the Planning Board. He focused on the organization of the element and highlighted specifics of the Goals, Policies, and Implementation section. He noted the "place holders" in the outline for the sections that will be developed by the consultant. He emphasized to Mr. Bissonnette that the Comprehensive Community Plan is on target for draft

completion prior to the upcoming election.

With regard to the section "Street Lighting" under "Issues and Opportunities", Mr. Asciola stated that Portsmouth is participating in a joint RFP with five other towns for streetlight acquisitions.

With regard to Action E – 1.3a, Mr. Bissonnette questioned the use of the term "facilities", stating that he is unsure of the promulgated model that energy must be centralized in terms of a utility. He emphasized that energy productivity could be implemented in de-centralized opportunities through the zoning regulations, for example mandates for solar panel installation on commercial buildings. He suggested removing the term "facilities" and placing a period after the term "production".

Mr. Crosby agreed with Mr. Bissonnette, stating that the action addresses a complication with the Use Tables in Article V of the Zoning Regulation in that energy land use is not addressed as a use.

Anne Fiore, 290 Frank Coelho Drive, Portsmouth, Chairperson, CICC PPC requested another month for the CICC PPC to review the Energy Element. She commented on questions regarding the workshop schedule that she is fielding from CICC PPC members. Mr. Bissonnette stated he would not make any final decisions on the Comprehensive Community Plan until he sees a complete draft of the plan.

Speaking as a private citizen, Ms. Fiore questioned the deadline of the upcoming election for the draft completion. Mr. Crosby stated that this is the wish of the Town Council in order to campaign on the completed work. Ms. Fiore expressed strong concern for that position. Mr. Bissonnette re-emphasized that the Planning Board will not make pre-mature decisions with regard to the plan.

Peter Roberts, 80 Ormerod Ave., Portsmouth stated that the Comprehensive Community Plan writing is behind schedule and the Town Council has not helped with the process.

Mr. Tibbetts suggested that energy reduction efforts, even those not highlighted in the element, be prioritized in terms of best return on investment, given limited resources. Mr. Bissonnette agreed stating that the wording should address future technologies since the plan is in place for 20 years.

In response to Mr. Harding, Mr. Crosby explained the contract details for the second wind turbine at the high school. Mr. Bissonnette stated that a specific discussion on the wind turbine contract is outside of the evening's agenda.

#### **4. Review the update of the Consultants progress with the Comprehensive Community Plan**

Mr. Crosby stated that he did not have a written report from the consultant who is updating the Town Administrator on the progress. The Town Administrator is updating the Town Council. He emphasized that everyone is on schedule with their work.

Ms. Fiore, Chairperson, CICCPC requested that the CICCPC receive updates on the consultant's progress as well. Mr. Bissonnette agreed.

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

The Planning Board will review the Natural Hazards & Climate Change Element in September and subsequently the Land Use Element in October.

**6. Rescheduling of the Regular Meeting of the Planning Board for October 12, 2018**

**MOTION:** Mr. Harding made a motion, seconded by Mr. Tibbetts, to reschedule the regular meeting from Wednesday, September 12 to Thursday, September 13, 2018, 7 p.m. All in favor. So voted.

At 7:41 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