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Peggy A. Passarelli

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ASST. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
Bernard J. Nascenzi



## TOWN OF JOHNSTON PLANNING BOARD

100 Irons Avenue, Johnston, RI 02919  
TEL (401) 231-4000 FAX (401) 231-4181

MEMBERS  
Joseph Lembo  
Christine M. Cunneen  
Mohamad Y. Sasa  
Sindyè Tonole

SOLICITOR  
Joseph R. Ballirano, Esq.

TOWN PLANNER/  
ADMIN. OFFICER  
Michael A. Asciola

# PLANNING BOARD MEETING

**Tuesday, June 2, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**

Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Ave., Johnston, RI 02919

## MEETING MINUTES

The Planning Board of the Town of Johnston held their monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, at the Johnston Senior Center, 1291 Hartford Avenue, Johnston, RI.

### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Quorum present for the Board: John Laurito, Chair; Peggy Passarelli, Secretary; Albert Cournoyer, Vice-Chair; Sindyè Tonole, Mohamad Sasa, Joseph Lembo and Christine Cunneen. Also present for the Town were Joseph Ballirano, Esq., Planning Board Solicitor; Michael Asciola, Town Planner; and Susan Leonardi, Planning Clerk.

### II. Approval of Minutes

A. Cournoyer made the motion to accept the minutes of the May 5, 2015 Planning Board meeting. Motion was seconded by J. Lembo. **A voice vote was taken; all in favor.**

### III. Old Business

#### A. Advisory Opinion to the Town Council – Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment Related to Pawnbrokers Use Regulations - PB '15-10

M. Asciola stated that he is working with the Town Clerk and will have a possible date for the workshop by Tuesday, June 9, 2015. He will gather information from other municipalities regarding their ordinances to be used at the workshop. J. Laurito asked how other municipalities handled pawnbrokers and if the state regulated how long an item would be held before sale. C. Cunneen asked how many were in Rhode Island and what the actual definition of a pawnbroker would be. A. Cournoyer asked if there had been any police incidents involving a pawnshop. M. Sasa questioned what the range of items would be handled; from jewelry to vehicles.

M. Asciola will speak to D. Santilli for more information on proposed ordinance. J. Ballirano stated that the ordinance must be reasonable; cannot exclude. M. Sasa asked if



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different classes of licenses were available depending on items being pawned. Tentative workshop date is June 30, 2015.

**B. Johnston Comprehensive Plan Update - PB '13-10**

Workshop to discuss the Comprehensive Plan Update.

M. Asciola met with Kevin Nelson and Chelsea Seifert at Statewide Planning. No grant funding is available, just technical assistance and mapping assistance. An agreement was signed in 2013 to use prior plan until the new plan is in place. Not having a plan has certain impacts on the Town, can inhibit grant funding and other plans. Standards are in place to assist in writing the plan. M. Asciola to gather information on the cost for a consultant and to prepare a request for Town Council for funding. C. Cunneen asked why the plan expired. M. Asciola stated that the plan expired due to lack of funding; approximately \$50,000 is needed. This was rejected by Town Council previously. M. Sasa asked why a consultant was needed. M. Asciola stated that the Planning Department is understaffed. C. Cunneen asked if this item could be added to the workshop on June 30, 2015; it is more important than the Pawnbroker's ordinance.

**IV. Administrative Report & Special Items**

S. Leonardi announced that she would be leaving the Town effective Friday, June 5, 2015. Ms. Leonardi stated that she has enjoyed her time with the Board and will miss the members. She is going to a new position at a non-profit agency in Providence. Board members expressed their surprise and thanked Ms. Leonardi for her service to the Board.

M. Asciola stated that the department is backlogged on projects. Orbit Energy submitted their Final plan application and documents. Notice of Decision will be posted shortly. Local 57 also submitted their Final plan and documents; more corrections are needed. Other minor subdivisions will be coming to the Board for their final approvals.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan expires in 2016. Needs updating for continued funding and safety concerns.

**V. General Business**

None

**VI. Adjournment**

P. Passarelli made the motion to adjourn and this was seconded by A. Cournoyer. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Peggy Passarelli, Secretary