



# Aquidneck Island Planning Commission

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Middletown Town Hall, Council Chambers, Middletown, Rhode Island, RI 02842

Minutes for Wednesday, April 12, 2016, 06:00 PM

## Board Members (Bold indicates present):

### *Newport*

**Hilary Stevens, Chair**

**Peter Janaros, Vice Chair**

**John DiBari, Fin. Comm. Chair**

**Dean Workman**

### *Middletown*

**Linda Finn**

**Richard Adams**

**Diana Skaggs**

**Gladys Lavine**

### *Portsmouth*

**Anne Macedonio**

**Ray Berberick, Strat. Com. Chair**

Gary Gump

**Kathleen Wilson**

Ex Officio: Erin Donovan-Boyle, Newport County Chamber of Commerce

## Municipal and US Navy Liaisons (Bold indicates present):

Rick Lombardi

Middletown Town Council

Dan Sullivan

NAVSTA Newport

**Marco Camacho**

**Newport City Council**

Keith Hamilton

Portsmouth Town Council

## Staff (Bold indicates present):

**Thomas Ardito, Exec. Director**

**Allison McNally, Office & Project Manager**

George Johnson, Planner

## Welcome and Approval of Agenda

A quorum being present, Hilary Stevens, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Hilary noted that the terms of service of board members are being reviewed to ensure that there are no gaps in board membership and that requests for reappointments are submitted to Municipal Councils in a timely manner.

## Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 8, 2016 were unanimously approved.

**Public Comment.** None.

## Finance Committee Report

John DiBari, Finance Committee Chair, reviewed the FY2016 YTD financial report from November 2015 through March 2016. He noted that Line Items are generally tracking to budget with the exception of items associated with contract work which began later than expected. He also noted that office rental will rise from \$1.00 per month to \$1,000 per month when AIPC occupies new office spaces. The current budget assumes an increase in rent.

## Strategic Planning Report

Ray Berberick provided an update on the strategic planning process. He indicated that the committee expected to address AIPC mission, vision and core values this evening. He expects to have a draft Strategic Plan for board review in late April followed by selected stakeholders reviews in May. He expects to have a plan for release to Councils in June, perhaps followed by a public forum. Ray emphasized that the Strategic Plan is not static but can be modified as comments are received.

The Board discussed the Strategic Plan and agreed that it needs to be compared with relevant parts of municipal Comprehensive Plans.

The Board unanimously approved the Mission, Vision and Core Values statements as presented.



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### **URI Coastal Resources Center (CRC) Coastal Resilience Strategy Presentation**

Teresa Crean and Pam Rubinoff reviewed with the Board a draft strategy to improve Rhode Island coastal resiliency. Specifically, they discussed a strategy to prepare our communities for rising sea levels, increased storm activity, ocean acidification and other effects caused by global warming.

Teresa and Pam asked Board consideration of establishing a partnership with URI Coastal Resources Center to fully develop the resiliency strategy and coordinate strategy development with coastal communities, especially on Aquidneck Island.

They envision the plan to look ahead a minimum of 5 years, defining and describing risks and exposure. The plan would build on work already done and use Aquidneck Island as a template for expanding the plan to other coastal communities as a regional plan.

A general discussion was held exploring AIPC's role and how AIPC would fit into resiliency planning. The sense of the Board was that resiliency planning is within AIPC's mission and offers the opportunity to make a strong contribution to Island planning.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously agreed to authorize the Executive Director to work with the URI Coastal Resources Center to define AIPC's role in resiliency planning and to explore establishing a partnership with CRC as appropriate.

The presentation is available on the AIPC website.

### **Executive Directors' Report**

**New Office Space.** Tom Ardito reported that AIPC will occupy new office spaces on May 1. He encouraged the Board to retrieve any souvenirs from 437 Broadway before the move since it is expected that the building will be sold or demolished. AIPC files and furnishing will be moved as soon as possible.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Stormwater Management Grant Application Status.** The pre-proposal application has been accepted. The proposed \$1 million grant would be for 2 years and cover all three Island communities. Municipalities would likely be required to provide in-kind services to support the grant work.

The focus of the grant is to develop a framework to manage stormwater in all Island communities. If awarded, because of his extensive engineering and project management experience Peter Janaros is expected to participate in the project team.

**Green Economy Bond.** On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously expressed AIPC's support for the Green Energy Bond now being considered by the Legislature. Tom was asked to draft a resolution of support for Board approval.

### **Board Recess and Reconvening in Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) Personnel (Development & Communications Manager)**

On a motion by Richard Adams, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to recess open session and reconvene in Executive Session.

The Board then recessed and reconvened in Executive Session at 7:35 PM.

On a motion by Mr. Adams, duly seconded and unanimously approved, the Open Session was reconvened at 7:55 PM.

On a motion by Mr. Adams, duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to empower the Executive Director to offer to Mary Alexandre the position of AIPC Development & Communications Manager.



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On a motion of Richard Adams duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to seal the Executive Session minutes pursuant to Section 42-46-7 RIGL.

The next AIPC Board meeting will be May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.

The Board adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: /s/ Richard Adams

Attachments: None

Approved 10 May 2016