



Aquidneck Island Reuse Planning Authority

Representing the municipalities of Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth, Rhode Island

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

1p.m.

LOCATION: Middletown Police Station Community Room

Attendees:

Fred Faerber, Chairman, *Town of Portsmouth*

Julie Oakley, Property Reuse Coordinator, *Aquidneck Island Reuse Planning Authority*

Dick Adams, Vice-Chairman, *Town of Middletown*

Paige Bronk, *City of Newport*

Bill Corcoran, *City of Newport*

Tina Dolen, *Aquidneck Island Planning Commission*

Jan Eckhart, *Town of Middletown*

Bob Gilstein, *Town of Portsmouth*

Keith Humphreys, *Town of Portsmouth*

Gladys Lavine, *Town of Middletown*

Ron Wolanski, *Town of Middletown*

Teresa Crean, *Coastal Resources Center*

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Chairman Fred Faerber

Agenda Items

- I. The meeting minutes of the June 2011 and July 2011 board meetings were approved as submitted by unanimous votes.
- II. Public Workshops
 - a. The final Public Hearing on the AIRPA process and redevelopment plan was held July 14 at the Community College of Rhode Island. This final hearing completed the last obligation for public input prior to submission of the redevelopment plan and the HUD homeless assistance submission documentation on August 19.
 - b. OEA Program Manager, Rich Tenga, attended the meeting, and was impressed with the high number of public outreach meetings reported. He felt the process was handled very thoroughly.
- III. Grant/Budget Update
 - a. Julie Oakley attended the Association of Defense Communities Annual Conference in Norfolk, VA from July 18th to 20th. She reported it was an excellent opportunity to learn and to network. Identifying communities who are equal to or just beyond our stage in the process was extremely helpful, and J. Oakley will stay in touch with these valuable contacts.

- b. Informal meetings with Rich Tenga (OEA) and David Drozd (BRAC PMO) were also very helpful.
- c. Conference sessions addressing issues such as liability, environmental insurance, institutional controls and other topics were helpful as they will all need to be addressed in the implementation of the redevelopment plan.

IV. Communications Strategy

a. Local

- i. With the significant evolution to an implementing LRA, combined with the new projections for final transfer of the properties, all of the municipal Councils will need to be briefed. Information will be presented in stages, to ensure there is not an overwhelming or confusing amount of data to digest.
- ii. The implementation phase is seen as a new process, and may require changes in board members, since the tasks will be very different from a planning LRA.
- iii. J. Oakley believes the bylaws will not have to be changed but she will review them to ensure they are sufficient for an implementing LRA.

b. State

- i. J. Oakley and Tina Dolan will work together to consistently keep the municipal Councilors, General Assembly Delegates, the Federal Delegation, the Governor's office and others fully informed on AIRPA's move to implementation via email or e-newsletter.
- ii. As stated above J. Oakley will continue to make personal presentations and/or correspondence to Councils to keep them informed on the process.

c. Federal

- i. In order to have a fully successful BRAC for NAVSTA Newport, all properties would be transferred. The only property still in question is Defense Highway / Burma Road. RIDOT may not follow through on acquisition unless there is some opportunity to achieve a workable conduit by adding a connector road from Gate 17 Access Road to Coddington Highway.
- ii. T. Dolan has initiated numerous meetings to address this issue, the most recent with Senator Reed, who elevated the conversation to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy's office and the Mid Atlantic Region, among others.
- iii. The next meeting T. Dolan arranged on this subject will be August 26th, bringing key local, state, political and federal stakeholders together for an objective and hopefully productive meeting. J. Oakley and David Knisely will represent AIRPA.

V. Project Documents

- a. The Redevelopment Plan and Homeless Assistance Submission are essentially complete, with final edits provided to the consultants. These will be submitted to HUD and the DoD on August 19th.
- b. It was agreed a cover letter from the Chairman would be included with the package sent to DoD and HUD.

VI. Next Steps/Planning Timeline

- a. J. Oakley reported the properties will probably not be ready for transfer until 2014 or later. This was a surprise to some AIRPA members, causing some disappointment. DoD

has to complete its NEPA documentation and finding of suitability to transfer the property. At this point in time, the funding for these efforts is slated for FY 2013.

- b. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of work to be completed in the interim, prior to releasing the properties by the implementation LRA including the EDC application.
- c. A question remains regarding how BRAC will feel about the PBC request for the park at the Navy Hospital versus doing an EDC for the entire property. Newport City Council voted to recommendation of the PBC and EDC. According to J. Oakley, the park at the hospital property is “non-negotiable” and will be included no matter what conveyance mechanism is used.

The next meeting of the AIRPA will be at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at the Middletown Police Station, Community Meeting Room.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:20 pm.

Submitted by:

Tina Dolen, Executive Director
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission