

Make It Easier To Do Business/Customer Focus Subcommittee

Public Session

Monday, November 17, 2014

Rhode Island Commerce Corporation

315 Iron Horse Way, Providence, RI

The following were in attendance:

Appointees/Delegates

George Nee

Roland Fiore

Karl Wadensten

Commerce RI Staff

Marcel Valois

John Pagliarini

Christopher Cannata

Lori Bassett

Others

Nancy Scarduzio, DOA

Mr. Wadensten called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. Mr. Hebert was not able to attend. Minutes from the October meeting were approved with one minor change.

Ms. Scarduzio gave an update on e-permitting. They are still in the process of negotiations with the vendor and finalizing the contract. Also involved in this process are the Office of Digital Excellence, Office of Regulatory Reform, and Purchasing. The goal is to get at least ten municipalities involved in the initial phase; 26 out of 39 have submitted applications to participate in the first phase. Some municipalities already have a system in place but they are interested in opting-in once the program is established. Other municipalities will have the option to participate in Phase II of the project.

Mr. Fiore asked how the process will work. Ms. Scarduzio said it will be rolled out in phases; building and electrical permits would be first. Applications can be done online along with fee payments; progress can also be tracked online. Mr. Fiore stated that he would like to see a uniform process for the state in regards to the building code. Many municipalities are in agreement with this but there are some that are opposed.

Ms. Scarduzio noted that ORR is in the process of creating a regulation manual as a guide for agencies in promulgating regulations. They are working with different agencies on creating a manual to help agencies in their review of regulations. -

Mr. Wadensten asked how the group could assist. Ms. Scarduzio's challenge is to make others aware that regulations implement laws so regulations cannot always be amended as needed/requested since they are controlled by statutory requirements

Mr. Fiore noted that Ms. Scarduzio's group is more of a resource. He stated that resolutions present issues when implemented by the municipalities.

Mr. Pagliarini asked if Ms. Scarduzio's group has had public workshops for interested parties. Ms. Scarduzio indicated that she had attended various groups. Mr. Fiore invited her to a session that the Builder's Association has coming up.

Mr. Nee noted that the cities and towns tend to blame the State for their problems. He gave jobs as an example; the municipalities want jobs but not in their towns.

Bringing the Speaker of the House in for a future subcommittee meeting was suggested.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.