

**MINUTES FOR  
A VISION FOR EXETER  
PILOT TEAM  
TOWN OF EXETER, RHODE ISLAND  
675 TEN ROD ROAD  
EXETER, RI 02822  
MARCH 4, 2009  
7:00 P.M.**

**MEETING LOCATION:** Exeter Public Library  
773 Ten Rod Road, Exeter

**ATTENDEES:** Scott Millar, David Schweid, Pati de Wardener, Rit Shartner, Tom McMillan, Helen Buchanan, Frank DiGregorio, Mike Cerullo, Joe Walsh, Marnie Lacouture, Dan Cotta, Kevin Essington, Susan Westa

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Scott Millar called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

Minutes were approved unanimously.

**DRAFT VISION STATEMENT**

There was discussion regarding changes to the proposed vision statement in paragraph 4. Rit Shartner suggested changes. Frank D. and Mike C. made other suggestions. A revised vision statement was accepted and approved by the group. Scott Millar will make the revisions and send it to the group.

There was also a discussion about the 4.5% property tax cap for towns and how this impacts future services and other opportunities.

**PHASE I PRESENTATION TO TOWN COUNCIL & PLANNING BOARD**

There was a discussion about how was best to move forward with the Town Council to get them to approve next steps for this project. Scott M. will develop a presentation for the Council.

**PHASE II STRATEGIZING**

The discussion revolved around how to focus Phase II efforts. It was noted that Grow Smart RI has examples of villages at different scales and what they look like. ULI might be able to help with visualization as well. Mike C. was concerned about using the term compact growth – people might misunderstand this term and think it's just about residential growth.

Kevin Essington explained the remaining process in more detail. Phase II will go through 3/10 and will focus on research and recommendations based on priorities developed by this group and the Phase I visioning process. Phase II will narrow down what compact mixed use development is for Exeter.

Rit Shartner is concerned about property rights and about promoting new ideas with incentives. He would like to focus on how to keep the landowner on the land. The group agreed that the vision for Exeter is to direct growth through a new village center that is surrounded by rural, countryside.

Mike C. noted that Hopkinton's farm viability ordinance is a great model for Exeter. Folks discussed the importance of protecting home-based businesses and using tax breaks and incentives to keep landowners on the land.

Scott Millar is going to draft a plan for Phase II based on this discussion, to bring to the Planning Board and Town Council. The group would like a schedule included with the work plan.

Mike C. suggested they need an inventory of local businesses and that maybe the Brown student could help with that in the future.

The group would like to bring in a series of speakers to help them with this next Phase. Suggestions included: Ken Payne, URI, Grow Smart and a TOD speaker from Roger Williams. The next meeting will be April 4<sup>th</sup> and will either include a presentation by Ken Payne or a discussion of Hopkinton's ordinance.

### **REGIONAL SHARING EVENT**

This event will be held at the Sterling Municipal Center on March 25. All team members were encouraged to attend. Scott Millar and David Schweid agreed to present for the team.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The group agreed the next two meetings will be the April 2 and April 22.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

**The next meeting will be April 2, 2009 at the Exeter Library 7pm**