



City of Woonsocket, RI

Planning Board | Design Review Commission | River Corridor Review Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 | 6:30PM

Location: Woonsocket Education Center, Room 310, 115 Main Street, Woonsocket RI

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Finlay called the meeting to order at 6:30PM

II. ATTENDANCE REVIEW

Members Present: Kenneth Finlay, Chair
Wendell Gardner, Vice-Chair
Barbara Scanlon, Secretary
Radames Figueroa, Member
Jonathan Pratt, Member

In Attendance: Joseph M. Rollins, Zoning Official & ADA Compliance Officer, , Michael
Debrousse, Planning Director, Woonsocket Zoning Board of Review, Jennifer
Masse, ZBR Recording Secretary

III. Zoning Board of Review and Planning Board Workshop on Amendments to the Rhode Island General Laws Regarding Zoning, Planning, and Permitting

A. Accessory Dwelling Units

Joseph Rollins presented the slides relating to the accessory dwelling unit legislation. Woonsocket already has legislation in the zoning ordinance. Chairman Finlay questioned if set back allowances were eliminated for ADUs, Mr. Rollins explained that setbacks are proportional. Zoning Board of Review Chairman mentioned the need for two services, Mr. Debrousse stated that only one water service is allowed per property per the PUC.

B. Zoning Enabling Act

Mr. Rollins presented the slides relating to the Zoning Enabling Act which requires that special use permits have more specific and objective criteria for the use. In Woonsocket there are over 40 uses, some of which are specific and objective, but not all. Mr. Rollins opined that establishing criteria will be very time consuming for City staff. Mr. Debrousse added that legislation was passed along to the City's Solicitor to change all special permitted uses to non-permitted as a temporary solution.

C. Transit-Oriented Development

City Planner Jonas Bruggemann presented the slides related to transit-oriented development. This particular legislation is optional, but Mr. Bruggemann provided a brief overview of TOD, the benefits, challenges, and how it has been implemented in other communities.

D. Comprehensive Plan Implementation

Mr. Bruggemann presented the slides relating to the Comprehensive Plan Implementation legislation. He provided an overview of the legislation and touched upon the current

comprehensive planning process that is taking place. Mr. Bruggemann highlighted that the legislation requires the Planning Department to review the strategic plan annually and a status implementation report must be provided to the City Council and reviewed at a public meeting.

E. Land Development and Subdivision

Mr. Bruggemann presented the slides relating to the Land Development and Subdivision legislation. There were six changes that were discussed: Planning Board appeals to Superior Court, more authority to the administrative officer, development plan review, land development projects and subdivisions definitions, review and approval processes, unified development review. The legislation was summarized briefly as moving a lot more responsibilities from the Planning and Zoning Board to the administrative officer.

IV. **UPCOMING MEETING:** Tuesday, January 2, 2023 -6PM

V. **ADJORNMENT** at 8:36 P.M.