



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Administration
DIVISION OF STATEWIDE PLANNING
One Capitol Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5870

Office: (401) 222-7901
Fax: (401) 222-2083

September 7, 2017

Ms. Jane Weidman, AICP
Town Planner
4540 South County Trail
Charlestown, RI 02813

Subject: Draft Comprehensive Plan Review – Recreation Chapter

Dear Ms. Weidman,

Our office greatly appreciates the opportunity to work with our municipal partners in the drafting of community comprehensive plans and we are pleased to notify you that our office has completed its review of the draft Recreation chapter of the Charlestown Comprehensive Plan. The following constitutes our evaluation of the draft material that you provided to our office.

As one commenter noted in their review of the chapter, “it’s quite impressive!” We were especially impressed with the section, “Relationship to Other Chapters”. As planners, we recognize the interrelationship of recreation, the environment, the economy, etc. and this section is a nice touch to clearly explain it to the readers of this comprehensive plan. I am pleased to note that no items of concern were identified in this chapter that could be an impediment to State approval of the plan. However, please keep in mind that the final plan will need to include an Implementation Chapter that incorporates the actions listed in the individual chapters, along with an implementation schedule.

The remainder of this letter offers a couple of recommendations that could serve to enhance what is already an excellent chapter on recreation.

Comment 1 – Currently there are only two CRMC designated public rights-of-way (ROW) to the shore located in Charlestown (Charlestown Breachway/boat ramp and East Beach Road). In order to increase public access, the Town may want to consider adding a goal and action(s) to identify additional potential rights-of-way and work with the CRMC to obtain official ROW designation. CRMC designation adds a significant level of State protection to ROWs from encroachment or blockage by adjacent property owners. Please feel free to contact James Boyd, Coastal Policy Analyst at CRMC, for further information or assistance. He can be reached at jboyd@crmc.ri.gov or 783-3370.

Comment 2 – Please consider using unique identifiers for each action so as to allow for easier citation and cross-reference.

Comment 3 – Map REC-1 displays wetlands throughout the entire Town but does not identify wetlands in the map legend; please add “Wetlands” to the legend. Also, the symbiology for the Narragansett Indian Tribe Settlement Land is difficult to read on the map; please consider using a fill pattern for the legend and lands on the map so they can be more clearly seen.

Comment 4 – Page A-18 mistakenly refers to Allen Cove as Allen *Harbor* (which is in North Kingstown).

In this review, we have attempted to identify any approvability issues regarding the material provided but there are some items, such as requirements related to the plan’s internal consistency and completeness, which cannot be fully evaluated until a full draft is furnished. At the appropriate time, we encourage the Town to provide us with the full final draft for review. As always, please feel free to contact Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner with any questions, concerns, or requests that you may have at 222-2093 or at kevin.nelson@doa.ri.gov.

Yours truly,



Parag Agrawal, AICP
Associate Director

cc: Jared Rhodes
Kevin Nelson