

LITCHFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Town Hall Annex,
80 Doyle Rd., Bantam, CT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 1, 2016 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order – The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Guy Baldwin, Carol Bramley, Abby Conroy, Thomas Waterhouse

Members Absent: William Conti, Nancy Tarascio-Latour, Peter Losee , Denise Schlesinger

Alternate Members Present: , Mitchell Samal

Also Present: Dennis Tobin, PhD

Appointment of Alternates: Mitchell Samal

Commissioners' requests: None

PLANNING MEETING

Plan of Conservation and Development – POCAD – Project Kick-off

Rory Fitzgerald and Francisco Gomes from Fitzgerald Halliday were present. Mr. Gomes did a brief introduction of their firm. The first public forum will be scheduled for some time in September to get input from citizens. Along with that they will be drafting an online survey to allow members of the community to express comments or concerns about their town.

Mr. Gomes asked for input from the Commission regarding strengths of the community. Historic structures, walkable centers, open space, agriculture, small locally owned business and cultural resources were some of the items listed.

Weakness were listed as tax rates, lack of affordable housing for young families, capital re-investment, lack of available commercial real estate, infrastructure, traffic on Rt. 202 because there are no good by-pass routes and building constraints presented by wetlands areas.

Opportunities discussed were some sort of bypass for traffic on the main routes through town, recreation on Bantam Lake.

Possible threats listed included managing residential quality of life issues such as Air BnB, short term rentals, foreclosures and abandonment of buildings) regionalization of schools because of small class sizes, unfunded state mandates, an aging population and environmental changes.

He asked what vision the commission members see for the future of Litchfield. A paragraph statement of who we are and what we want to become will be central to what the rest of the plan will be based on.

There was a lengthy discussion on how to involve the younger generation in this process. The Commission is very much interested in hearing from the next generations; the Gen-Xers and the Millennials.

The Land Use Office will investigate possible locations to hold the community meetings and possible dates.

Approval of Minutes of July 18, 2016 – C. Bramley moved to approve the minutes, G. Baldwin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business – None

New Business - None

Public Comment - None

Possible Executive Session to discuss pending litigation

Correspondence

- a) NHCOC referral response: Goshen draft Town Plan dated July 20, 2016
- b) Email from Jocelyn Ayer requesting time on agenda dated July 21, 2016
- c) Letter from Raz Alexe Federal Local Bridge Program dated July 25, 2016
- d) Letter from Raz Alexe Beach Street pavement project, dated July 25, 2016

Adjournment

G. Baldwin moved to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., A. Conroy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.



Thomas Waterhouse, Chairman

Date 8/15/16