

Plan of Conservation Implementation Committee

Minutes January 22, 2008

Chairman Copp will ask the Selectmen to appoint a new member of the Committee to fill the seat of Tom Lyon.

The Committee asked Staff about progress on a number action steps recommended by the POCD:

1. The one Open Space Subdivision Development application that was submitted was not consistent with existing regulations. The regulations were subsequently amended, but no new applications have been submitted.
2. A draft of Buildable Land Regulations has been prepared, but no action has been taken on it. Ms Robinson asked that the Committee request action on this by the P&Z Commission.
3. Concern was expressed about enforcement of conservation easements.
4. Westerly had been helping with Pawcatuck's Riverwalk projects, but has withdrawn its support.
5. Staff indicated that development of a Town Stormwater Quality Standards Manual, similar to Roadway Standards, was a high priority. Vegetation buffers should be included in the standards.
6. Regulations allowing mixed use developments have been passed and staff is encouraging applications.
7. Old Mills are often "brownfields", and incentives are needed to equalize the cost of redeveloping them with the cost of building in "greenfields."
8. Mystic streetscape development is ongoing, with lots of coordination required. Construction is anticipated in 2008-2009 on sidewalks, lighting, signage and enhanced pedestrian friendliness.
9. Staff indicated that a Master Plan is needed for the whole Seaport/Downtown/Coogan Blvd Development Project. A consultant is currently looking at a transportation plan for the Golden Triangle to Rte 1 connection. Federal funding grants require a 20% match from the Town. There is some overlap with a Seaport grant, and staff is working to maximize funding and minimize overlap.

10. Design Review Guidelines have been developed, but no Committee has been appointed. Our Committee wants to see action on getting these appointments made.
11. There was a short discussion of the Route One Corridor Study, and the fact that it called for "village districts" to be established, with design review and architectural standards. Village Districts are not floating zones. The P&Z Commission has been asked by the Selectmen to appoint members to the Architecture Review Board.

The P&Z Commission has asked for input from the Implementation Committee. The Committee asked that a special meeting be called for February 18 to discuss actions that it needs to take to follow up on the issues raised during this meeting, and recommendations it would like to make to the P&Z Commission.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KH Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font. The initials "KH" are prominent at the beginning, followed by the name "Robinson".

Kate Robinson, Secretary