

**PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

MINUTES April 22, 2008

PRESENT: Copp, Abt, Robinson, Lyons. Staff: Keith Brynes

Mr. Abt gave his analysis of the Progress Report, supplied by the Staff. He noted that the highest priority of the POCD was preservation of Open Space and Natural Resources. 31 Items have either been accomplished or found unrealistic. Of the 31, 19 were High Priority, and 8 were Moderate Priority. That means that only about 20% of the 150 Tasks identified in the POCD have been accomplished in four years. All agreed that it was not a very good record of accomplishment, and questioned whether we are doing our job adequately.

Page 2, Tasks #1- #3, and Page 3-4, Tasks #1-2: Mr. Brynes stated that an Open Space Sub-Committee had attempted to develop new Open Space Regulations. In the process, it determined that attempting to get a 20% set-aside would engender too big fight for too small a gain. The regulations drafted were subsequently determined to be too restrictive by the P&Z Commission. Since then, the Open Space Sub-Committee has not met. Mrs. Robinson moved that the Implementation Committee ask the P&Z Commission to reconstitute the Open Space Sub-Committee to promulgate "workable" Open Space and Buildable Land Regulations. Motion not voted upon.

Task #4: Open Space Bonding has not been included in the 2008 Town budget. The Department's CIP request was also not included in the 2008 Budget.

Task#5: The Department has stopped applying for new Open Space Grants because the current focus needs to be on grants that have been received and must be implemented. Staff must be in place to do the work, and frequently additional funds must be located to do the work as costs often rise in the time between the original applications and the receipt of the funding. Pawcatuck and Mystic streetscapes are moving along. Ms Lyons expressed concern about the lack of public knowledge about changes in such projects (such as the withdrawal of sidewalks from Pawcatuck project).

Page 3 Task #13: Westerly has withdrawn from its support of the Pawcatuck River Pedestrian Bridge.

Task #16: Several locations were identified as possible Town Beach locations (Williams Beach in Mystic, the shore next to the Airport Property in Stonington, now being developed as a vineyard, and the Amtrak property to the south of the RR tracks at the western entrance to Quiambaug Cove). The Committee agreed that such properties needed to be identified and work needs to be done to see if such properties could be acquired and developed for public use.

Attention should be paid to identification of any Aquarion Water Co. properties that might be divested, as the Town has first refusal rights to such properties.

The Committee agreed that Open Space should be part of the Town Budget EVERY year.

Page 4, Task #8: The Committee agreed that the Town should have an Underground Tank Ordinance. Mrs. Robinson said she had a Draft Model Town Underground Tank Ordinance that she would get to Mr. Brynes.

Pages 4-5, Tasks #9-11: The Committee asked My Brynes for copies of the *Town Standards Manual*.

Mr. Abt suggested that the Town should be watching the progress of a DEP funded project underway in Ledyard to control phragmites.

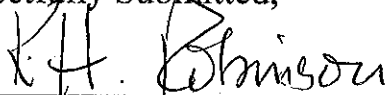
Mr. Brynes reported that there has been a good response to the Board of Selectmen's request for volunteers for the Architectural Design Review Committee.

Mrs. Robinson requested that efforts be made to have more communication between the Town and Borough Planning Departments.

Page 5-6, Tasks #1-7: The Committee agreed that a Demolition Delay Ordinance should be developed.

It was determined that actions on the items identified would be deferred until the June 10, 2008 meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kate Robinson, Secretary