2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee Special Meeting Minutes August 6, 2012

The 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Commission held its August 6, 2012 Special Meeting at 7:00PM in the Stonington Police Station meeting room at 173 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT. Attending were members Bob Birmingham, Wendy Bury, Walter Grant, Jim Kelley, Sara Lathrop, Bill Lyman, Robert Mohr and Alisa Morrison. Town Planner / Interim Director of Planning, Keith A. Brynes was also in attendance. Member John Prue was absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

Mr. Kelley motioned to approve the draft minutes of the 7/16/12 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Birmingham and was approved unanimously.

The Subcommittee discussed a framework of the 2004 POCD which was previously distributed. The Subcommittee discussed other municipal POCD's which were previously reviewed. The Towns of East Lyme, Simsbury and Glastonbury were mentioned as good examples.

A 2010 memo written by Bill Haase that described the initial process for revising the plan and performing a gap analysis was discussed. Mr. Birmingham stated that a main question will be how much should be rewritten. Mr. Lyman suggested that the 2004 plan should be updated but not rewritten. Members discussed whether more school issues should be included in the plan. The Board of Education is now forming a Building Committee that will be looking into planning issues and may be able to help with updated demographic information.

Ms. Bury suggested that members could ask to be on the agendas of various local boards to solicit input regarding what has changed over the past 10 years and how board's now view their previous implementation strategies. These conversations should focus on the future and not any past implementation failures. These meetings with other boards could be publicized to get some early public input.

Ben Tamsky of the Planning and Zoning Commission stated that his personal opinion was that the Planning and Zoning Commission would not want to provide much input at this stage. Ian Camfield, former chairman of the Economic Development Commission, stated that being able to afford the Town's education needs is always a big issue. This Subcommittee needs to prioritize the different needs and desires of its residents who are often split between progrowth and no-growth camps. The current plan should address development along Route 1.

Ms. Bury recommended that more input from the Board of Finance should be sought during development of the plan, particularly regarding bonding capacity. Mr. Lyman stated that the Subcommittee must do more than collect public input and must use their own judgment and look at big picture issues.

Ms. Morrison stated that the Subcommittee needs a timeline for the immediate future. Mr. Kelley stated that he contacted Dr. Miniutti from UCONN's Landscape Architecture Program who is willing to meet with the Subcommittee and discuss services available. Members welcomed his visit. Mr. Birmingham stated that the Subcommittee should figure out what work can be done quickly and what may require outside assistance.

Members discussed who will contact local boards to ask to be on their agendas over the next month. Mr. Grant will contact the Conservation Commission. Ms. Morrison will contact the Department of Public Works and Recreation Committee. Ms. Bury will contact the Economic Development Commission. Ms. Lathrop will contact the Harbor Commissions. Mr. Birmingham will contact WPCA. Mr. Brynes will contact the Architectural Design Review Board, Department of Human Services and Health Department.

Prior to the next meeting, Mr. Lyman stated that he will work on a first draft of an outline revision. Ms. Bury will begin work on a gap analysis and will circulate it on Google Docs. Mr. Brynes will prepare an updated timeline.

Due to the Labor Day holiday the next Subcommittee meeting will held on Monday September 10, 2012 at a location to be determined.

Mr. Kelley motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Morrison seconded. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,