

**2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee
Special Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2013**

The 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Commission held its February 4, 2013 Special Meeting at 7:00PM at the Stonington Police Station Meeting Room – 173 S. Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT. Attending were members Bob Birmingham, Wendy Bury, Jim Kelley, Sara Lathrop, Bill Lyman, Robert Mohr, Alisa Morrison (departed 8:45) and John Prue (arrived 8:15). Member Walter Grant was absent. Town Planner Keith A. Brynes was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04PM.

Mr. Kelley summarized his discussions with Subcommittee members regarding interest in filling officer positions. Ms. Morrison motioned to nominate Sara Lathrop as Subcommittee Chair; seconded by Mr. Birmingham. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Birmingham motioned to nominate Wendy Bury as Subcommittee Vice Chair; seconded by Mr. Lyman. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lyman motioned to approve the draft minutes of the 1/22/13 meeting as amended; seconded by Mr. Birmingham. The motion approved 6-0-1 with Ms. Morrison abstaining.

The Subcommittee heard from Jennifer Lacker, Chair of the Stonington Bicycle Committee which is meeting informally and is soon to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Lacker described the committee's main goals as advising the POCD Subcommittee, designing and implementing a Town-wide Bicycle Plan and educating the public about cycling issues. Ms. Lacker suggested that in addition to new bike trails, several strategies could promote cycling in Town and increase safety. Completing a Bicycle Plan would take at least a year and a half and it would not be complete prior to the 2014 POCD. The Subcommittee recommended the Bicycle Group review the relevant 2004 goals and provide recommendations for any revisions. The questionnaire results show significant interest in bike trails.

The Subcommittee heard from former Mystic Mobility Task Force member and Mystic Seaport President, Steven White regarding the Mystic Mobility Study. Mr. White discussed the major recommendations of that study which included a new Mystic trolley system and mobility hubs. While the study presented an ideal multi-modal solution for the area, no implementation has occurred due to the significant costs involved (over \$1,000,000). The recommendation for water taxi service remains a worthwhile goal although finding locations for customer pick-ups and parking remains an issue. Mr. White stated that new wayfinding signs have helped guide tourists throughout the area. Mr. White suggested that with recent decreases in vehicle traffic in Mystic some strategies to reduce the number of vehicles may be decades too late.

A member of the public recommended that SEAT buses should focus on areas with more customer demand such as Route 27. The Subcommittee discussed the shortcomings of

previous attempts at a Mystic shuttle/trolley service including a lack of signage, promotion and funding.

Mr. Mohr presented his recommendations for the 2004 Plan's Circulation and Transportation objectives. The Subcommittee discussed whether to keep, delete or modify the 2004 Plan's recommendations as follows:

Address vehicle transportation needs, page 9-18:

1. "Classify roads according to both their function and the desired pattern of growth it is intended to support." Members concluded that more information on the Town's current road classification is needed prior to deciding on a recommendation.
2. "Create context sensitive road design standards." Members concluded that they will review the Town's Technical Standards for Land Development Document to decide whether this recommendation has been met or is still needed.
3. "Work with ConnDOT and SECCOG to address critical accident locations on state highways." Members concluded that this recommendation should be kept as an ongoing policy rather than a task.
4. "Complete scheduled safety improvements on Town roads." Members concluded that more information is needed on DPW's scheduled safety improvements prior to deciding on a recommendation.

Address Transit Options, page 9-19:

1. "Explore expansion of SEAT bus service to serve all villages." Members concluded that this recommendation should be modified to promote SEAT service.
2. "Work with Mystic Chamber of Commerce to improve and promote Mystic jitney bus service." Consensus of members was to delete this recommendation.
3. "Pursue improved Amtrak service to Mystic." Consensus of members was to keep this recommendation.

Mr. Mohr suggested adding a new recommendation to "Explore water taxi / shuttle," to which members concurred.

Address Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation, page 9-19:

1. "Connect villages and other activity nodes with sidewalks or trails." Consensus was to keep this recommendation.
2. "Require sidewalks as part of all development proposals and road improvement projects within walking distance of schools, parks and playgrounds." Consensus was to modify this recommendation to change the word "require" to "incentivize."

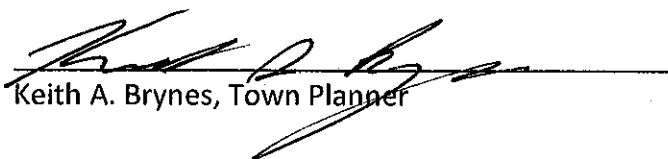
3. "Require all road improvement projects to consider bicycle accommodations in their design." Consensus was to modify this recommendation to change the word "require" to "incentivize" and add the new Stonington Bicycle Committee as a responsible party.
4. "Require site development projects to consider bicycle accommodations in their design." Consensus was to delete this recommendation as it has been completed with amendments to the Zoning Regulations.

Modify Parking and Other Standards, page 9-19:

1. "Create graduated minimum retail parking requirements and investigate parking maximums for larger developments." This task has been completed through Zoning Regulation amendments. Consensus was to delete this recommendation.
2. "Allow parking reductions for mixed-uses with offset peak parking demands." This task has been completed through Zoning Regulation amendments. Consensus was to delete this recommendation.
3. "Create more stringent parking lot landscaping requirements for all commercial areas." This task has been completed through Zoning Regulation amendments. Consensus was to delete this recommendation.
4. "Allow alternative previous paving materials for limited applications outside Aquifer Protection Zones." This task has been completed through Zoning Regulation amendments. Consensus was to modify the recommendation to make it a high priority policy statement.
5. "Modify lighting requirements to reduce excessive lighting." This task has been completed through Zoning Regulation amendments. Consensus was to delete this recommendation.
6. "Adopt an ordinance to prohibit off-site floodlights and other sources of unnecessary light pollution." Consensus was to keep this recommendation.
7. "Investigate Town ownership of street lights on Town roads." Consensus was to delete this recommendation.

Mr. Birmingham motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Bury. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner