

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

The 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Commission held its March 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, Walter Grant, Sara Lathrop, Robert Mohr, Alisa Morrison and John Prue. Member Bill Lyman was absent. Town Planner Keith A. Brynes was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Lathrop at 7:03PM.

Ms. Bury motioned to approve the draft minutes of the 2/4/13 meeting; seconded by Ms. Morrison. The motion was approved 7-1.

Mr. Mohr summarized his discussions with the Director of Public Works and Police Chief regarding circulation and transportation goals. The Director of Public Works stated that due to limited funds there is no active plan for extensions of sidewalks. His department is allocated only \$60,000 per year to repair sidewalks which only amounts to about 1,200 feet. Some West Vine St. School neighbors have petitioned for sidewalks but there is not adequate funding and other neighbors strongly object. The Subcommittee debated the extent to which recommendations, such as installing sidewalks, should be included when there is no funding to implement them.

Mr. Mohr stated that the Police Chief's main concern relative to the POCD was that large scale development at Exit 92 has the potential to negatively impact traffic safety. The Board of Selectmen will apparently not be forming a Bicycle Committee. Jennifer Lacker will form a cycling advocacy group which can provide input.

The Subcommittee revisited the following Circulation and Transportation Recommendations:
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 the road classifications in the 2004 should not be changed and this recommendation should be deleted.
2. "Create context sensitive road design standards." Members discussed whether this recommendation was still needed. Consensus was to modify the recommendation with language better clarifying "context sensitive road design standards."

Ms. Lathrop mentioned Jim Kelley's resignation from the Subcommittee. The meeting schedule will need to be revised by having the Conservation Commission chairman address the Subcommittee at the next meeting on March 18th. That meeting and the next one will be devoted to the topic of Open Space. Prior to the meeting Mr. Grant will redistribute the

Conservation Commission's stated priorities. In Mr. Kelley's absence, Mr. Prue will be the lead for the Affordable Housing section of the plan and Mr. Grant will be the lead on the Agricultural section. Ms. Lathrop stated that members leading the discussion on certain topics should put relevant information on Google Docs about a week prior to the meeting in which the topic will be discussed. Mr. Brynes will update the meeting schedule, inform the chairs of relevant boards and commissions and post the schedule on the POCD webpage and Google Docs and post the Word version of the 2004 POCD on Google Docs.


First Selectman, Ed Haberek, addressed the Subcommittee stating that his proposed budget includes money for a Director of Planning. The position description is being rewritten to focus on community development and project management. Mr. Prue stated that it would help the Subcommittee if the Director could help facilitate the POCD. Mr. Haberek stated that funds are available for a consultant to assist with the POCD if necessary. Consensus of the Subcommittee was to contact Planimetrics, due to their experience in the Town, to see what services could be provided. Ms. Bury will contact Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics.

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, Rob Marseglia, addressed the Subcommittee. Mr. Marseglia stated that the mission of the Subcommittee is to provide the Town with guidance on where it should conserve and develop residential and commercial uses going forward. The Planning and Zoning Commission will use the document to judge applications that come before them. The Subcommittee should not get bogged down in the minutia of specific recommendations. The Planning and Zoning Commission and POCD Subcommittee should hold occasional joint meetings to make sure both groups are in basic agreement about the plan's goals. The Subcommittee will contact the PZC with a potential date for a joint meeting.

Carlene Donnarummo commented that the Subcommittee wants to promote Open Space Developments and discourage cul-de-sacs but a recently approved Open Space Development included a cul-de-sac.

Mr. Prue motioned to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Bury. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner