

**2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2013**

The 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Commission held its May 6, 2013 Special Meeting at 7:00PM at the Stonington Police Station Meeting Room – 173 S. Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT. Attending were members Sara Lathrop, Bob Birmingham, Wendy Bury, Walter Grant, Bill Lyman, Robert Mohr and Alisa Morrison. Member John Prue was absent. Town Planner Keith A. Brynes and Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics were also in attendance.

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

Ms. Bury motioned to approve the draft minutes of the 4/29/13 meeting; seconded by Mr. Mohr. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Chalder stated that the purpose of the meeting should be to summarize input gathered so far into 3 broad goals per section. The Subcommittee will further refine these broad goals and develop more specific tasks in the future. The process of distilling 3 main goals helps get to the essence of what it is the Town is trying to achieve. Specific tasks will spell out how the Town intends on getting there.

Mr. Lyman stated that the Subcommittee's should avoid being too general or specific in the document. Mr. Chalder recommended the Subcommittee investigate a "2 Volume" approach as adopted by Waterford and Norwich. In this approach, the POCD itself, known as the "Strategic Element," consists of the Town's visions, goals and maps. A separate "Implementation Element" which is not technically a part of the POCD would spell out specific tasks and other implementation details. This Implementation Element can be amended much more quickly and would not be subject to the public hearing requirements in State Statutes. The State's Office of Policy Management has endorsed the legality of such an approach. Mr. Chalder will distribute a link of an example to staff who will forward it to the Subcommittee for review.

Mr. Chalder recommended that a separate POCD Implementation Committee, made up of members from different local boards, should be in charge of implementation once the plan is adopted. Each POCD chapter should consist of a very brief inventory, a brief assessment of the issues followed by the vision and/or recommendations. Mr. Chalder recommended reviewing Norwich's draft POCD which includes a Future Land Use Plan with gradient shading rather than distinct land use recommendations for each property.

Coastal Resources:

Mr. Birmingham summarized input received and possible recommendations for the section on coastal resources. After discussion, the Subcommittee's 3 broad goals were as follows:

1. Protect sensitive coastal resources.

2. Ensure appropriate development in coastal areas.
3. Plan/prepare for climate change and sea level rise.

Agriculture:

Mr. Grant presented relevant input received by the Subcommittee. After discussion, the Subcommittee's 3 broad goals were as follows:

1. Support Stonington's farms and farmers.
2. Preserve agricultural land
3. Encourage community agriculture.

Water Resources:

Ms. Morrison discussed input received regarding water resources. After discussion the Subcommittee's 3 broad goals were as follows:

1. Protect water quality.
2. Protect water quantity.
3. Protect other important natural resources.

The Subcommittee discussed how to organize the Plan's chapters since there is no chapter for "natural resources" as proposed. Consensus was to raise subsections in Chapter 3 to be their own chapters.

Chapters would be reorganized as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Demographics
3. Coastal resources
4. Agriculture
5. Natural resources (including water resources)
6. Open space
7. Historic and special resources
8. Residential housing development
9. Commercial and industrial development
10. Community services and facilities
11. Circulation and transportation
12. Implementation

Open Space:

Mr. Grant presented relevant input received by the Subcommittee. After discussion, the Subcommittee's 3 broad goals were as follows:

1. Protect and preserve more open space.

2. Encourage passive and active recreation open space for residents.
3. Manage open space well.
4. Implement the Town's open space vision.

Historic and Special Resource Conservation:

Mr. Lyman summarized relevant input. Mr. Chalder recommended the plan include a separate chapter on the Villages which include a unique mix of conservation and development. This will be further discussed at the next meeting.

Community Character:

Mr. Chalder discussed types of recommendations regarding community character often included in POCD's. These include physical and social character and possibly future demographics. The Subcommittee discussed whether the Town's demographic trend toward a more affluent and older population should be promoted. Ms. Morrison departed at 9:00PM.

The Subcommittee's 3 broad goals on this topic were as follows:

1. Protect and preserve the Town's character.
2. Enhance social connections.
3. Encourage diversity in character.

Ms. Bury will update the outline with the goals recommended made at this meeting and distribute it through staff prior to the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday May 13th, 7:00PM at the 1st floor meeting room of Town Hall.

Ms. Bury motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Grant. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:21PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner