

**2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee
Special Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2013**

The 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Commission held its May 13, 2013 Special Meeting at 7:00PM at the Stonington Town Hall Meeting Room –152 Elm St., 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 5/6/13 meeting; seconded by Mr. Birmingham. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Lathrop reviewed the goals drafted so far from the 5/6/13 meeting. The Subcommittee discussed the possibility of a “2 volume” approach to the plan with separate strategic and implementation elements. The Planning and Zoning Commission could eventually be asked which form they prefer.

Villages:

Mr. Lyman suggested that each of the Town’s villages could have their own specific visions in the plan. Mr. Chalder noted that the Town’s villages need a mixture of both preservation and growth. Chris Dixon noted that lack of power after storms has been an issue. Curtis Lynch recommended also planning for the “green zone” of central areas of town that are not in the villages. Mr. Chalder stated that the new plan could update the 2004 POCD’s map of potential village areas to fill in the areas that are not within the villages. Zoning should not conflict with the Town’s goals for its villages. After discussion, the Subcommittee’s 3 broad goals were as follows:

1. Maintain the physical character of the villages.
2. Maintain the social character and sense of community.
3. Maintain a diverse community.

Housing:

The Subcommittee discussed goals for the housing section of the plan. After discussion, the Subcommittee’s 3 broad goals were as follows:

1. Create strategies to diversify the town’s housing portfolio/stock.
2. Manage patterns of residential development for more flexibility.
3. Reuse established buildings for housing.

Economic Development:

The Subcommittee discussed goals related to economic development. After discussion, the Subcommittee's 4 broad goals were as follows:

1. The Town must increase its commercial tax base.
2. Promote economic growth in appropriate areas.
3. Make efficient use of existing land and buildings.
4. Support and encourage tourism.

The Subcommittee discussed the need to cover topics including alternative energy and sustainability / resiliency in the plan.

The possibility of a public hearing in July to discuss the Exit 91 / Taugwonk Rd. area was discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 3rd at the Stonington Police Station.

Ms. Bury motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Birmingham. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner