

**2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee  
Special Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2014**

The 2014 Plan of Conservation and Development Subcommittee of the Planning and Zoning Commission held a Special Meeting on March 10, 2014 7:00PM at the Stonington Town Hall Meeting Room – 152 Elm St., Stonington. Attending were members Bob Birmingham, Wendy Bury, Walter Grant, Sara Lathrop and Bill Lyman. Member Bob Mohr was absent. Town Planner Keith A. Brynes and Planning and Zoning Commission members Ben Tamsky, Curtis Lynch and John Prue were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lathrop at 7:05PM.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Lyman motioned to approve the minutes of the 1/6/14 meeting; seconded by Ms. Bury. The motion was approved 5-0.

Ms. Bury motioned to amend the minutes of the 2/11/14 Joint Meeting as proposed by Mr. Lyman; seconded by Mr. Birmingham. The motion was approved 5-0. Amended minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

**Old Business:**

Mr. Brynes stated that this is the first Subcommittee meeting since the draft plan was prepared by Planimetrics. The main question is whether the Subcommittee feels the direction of the draft plan is acceptable. Consensus was that the direction is acceptable but that some revisions would have to be made prior to the plan being sent out for review and input. Mr. Lyman stated that larger, policy oriented changes should be made now but smaller edits could be made while the draft is being reviewed by other stakeholders. The plan should still differentiate policies vs. tasks as was originally drafted. Mr. Lyman recommended that after the plan's adoption, changing a policy would require a formal application to modify the POCD but changing tasks could be done by the new POCD Implementation Committee as written in his draft of the Implementation Chapter. The Subcommittee discussed the merits of the idea and of splitting the POCD into 2 separate documents – one with the key policies and one with specific tasks. Consensus was to keep the POCD as one volume but split the recommendations in each chapter into 2 tables for policies and tasks as was originally drafted. Consensus of the Subcommittee was to not include priorities with the recommendations. Tasks should only have one leader who will take responsibility for implementation.

The Subcommittee discussed formation of a new POCD Implementation Committee chaired by the 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman and including members of groups responsible for specific tasks. Mr. Brynes will send PZC members the chapters on Implementation and the Preface drafted by Mr. Lyman.

Mr. Lyman asked whether the recommendations in the chapters should be broken up by goals as in the Planimetrics draft. Consensus was that this re-organization made the document more readable.

Mr. Lynch asked that the Subcommittee report to PZC with concerns or suggestions made by local groups that did not make it into the plan. Ms. Bury stated that a report on what was not included in the plan would be a burden. Mr. Lyman stated that getting input back on the draft plan from these groups will be a good measure of what they believe to be unaddressed issues.

Mr. Tamsky stated that the PZC will review the draft plan at their next meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Lyman asked if the PZC should review a revised 2<sup>nd</sup> draft prior to it being sent to other groups. Mr. Tamsky stated that the Subcommittee should not wait for PZC's review of a revised plan. Consensus of the Subcommittee was to add back the more detailed table of contents to the plan.

Ms. Bury discussed the next draft of the plan which will need to account for recommended changes from Subcommittee members as well as PZC input from their 2/11/14 and upcoming 3/18/14 meetings. Ms. Bury asked whether Planimetrics should be used to revise the plan. Consensus was that they should be used to compile recommended changes and edit the plan. Ms. Bury will collect comments on the initial draft from individual Subcommittee members by March 24<sup>th</sup>. Comments should focus more on factual inaccuracies and less on grammar, etc. These will be sent to Planimetrics. Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics is available to be at a special Subcommittee meeting on Monday March 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Brynes will contact Mr. Chalder. Mr. Birmingham stated that the Future Land Use Plan should not be renamed since it is directly addressed by that title in state statutes.

The Subcommittee discussed the details of developing an on-line questionnaire to gather input from local groups on a revised plan. A questionnaire would have to ask whether a responder was answering individually or speaking for the group.

Mr. Lyman stated that the Context chapter should also include changes in Town since 2004 and a summary of the POCD's questionnaire results.

The Subcommittee discussed the meeting schedule. There will be no regular meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Special Meeting on Monday March 31<sup>st</sup> and a regular meeting on Monday April 7<sup>th</sup>. At this date the Subcommittee will discuss revisions to the Open Space Plan proposed by the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Birmingham motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Lyman. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner