

Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Draft Minutes
March 7, 2016

CYNTHIA LADWIG
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The Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee held a special meeting on Monday, March 7, 2016, at the Town Human Services Building, 166 South Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT.

Attending were First Selectman and Chairman, Rob Simmons, and members, Ben Baldwin, Keith A. Brynes – Town Planner, David Hammond, Bill Lyman, Curtis Lynch, Barbara McKrell - Director of Public Works, Michael Schefers, Stuart Schwartzstein and Ward Smith. Members Bryan Bentz and John Prue were absent. Also in attendance was Director of Planning, Jason Vincent.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Simmons at 7:00PM.

Mr. Smith motioned to approve the minutes of the 1/11/16 meeting; seconded by Mr. Schwartzstein. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Simmons discussed the 1/29/16 correspondence from Rick Newton questioning the meeting of the “resident” members of the Implementation Committee (members that do not represent other local boards or commissions). Mr. Simmons stated that meetings of the entire Implementation Committee are ideal. If a small subcommittee needs to meet, they can post an agenda and Town Hall will be available. Mr. Schwartzstein stated that no decisions were made at the meeting of the resident members. Mr. Schefers stated that the process was run by the Town Clerk. Amended minutes of the meeting of the resident members were submitted to the Committee.

Mr. Simmons introduced Director of Planning, Jason Vincent, who spoke about his background. The Department of Planning is beginning a roughly 2 year process of revising the “Comprehensive Plan,” which consists of the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Map. The first step will be a reorganization of the Zoning Regulations.

Mr. Simmons discussed his prioritization of the Board of Selectmen’s tasks. The Board of Selectmen’s high priorities are The Committee discussed whether there should be a separate Agricultural Commission formed, as recommended in Task 4.1.2 or whether EDC should engage in tasks promoting agriculture. Agriculture is a part of the local economy and EDC either fill its vacancy with a resident knowledgeable about agriculture or form an agricultural advisory group. Consensus was that EDC can begin to tackle these tasks and a separate Agricultural Committee could be formed in the future if needed. Mr. Simmons agreed to make Task 4.1.2 a high priority.

Other high priorities as listed by the Board of Selectmen include exploring potential enhancement of tax relief programs for low income older residents and preparing an energy conservation action plan for Town and school buildings.

Task 12.5.4 to pursue creating Wi-Fi hot spots in downtown areas was discussed as better suited for the EDC. The EDC will discuss this task at a future meeting.

Mr. Baldwin discussed the Conservation Commission’s tasks. The Commission has not been able to meet since they are short-handed and in need of new members. Mr. Simmons will assist in recruitment.

Mr. Hammond described EDC's prioritization and distributed their list of tasks dated 3/7/16. High priorities include providing an annual report on economic drivers (Task 10.2.11), working with local businesses on their expansions (Task 10.3.2) and addressing the needs of marinas (Task 10.4.6). Task 10.4.2 to develop a comprehensive economic development plan for the Town was changed to a high priority. The Committee discussed the various forms such an economic development plan could take which could include brief action plans for each individual business cluster.

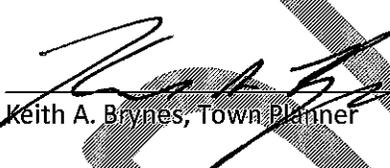
Mr. Lynch discussed the prioritization done by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Commission's numerous tasks fall into 3 general categories, regulatory changes, economic development and conservation. Several of the tasks can be implemented through the planned comprehensive rewrite of the Zoning Regulations. Mr. Lyman suggested that the implementation schedule could highlight the 3 general categories discussed.

Ms. McKrell discussed prioritization by the Department of Public Works. High priority items include developing sidewalks in key areas of Mystic and Pawcatuck (Task 13.2.10) and pursuing accreditation of the Mechanic Street Flood Control Barrier. Regarding the recommendation to install bike racks (13.3.6), the Department is investigating appropriate locations, such as parks and other public spaces, where they can be installed.

The next regular Committee meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2016, 7:00pm at the Human Services Building.

Mr. Schefers motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Lynch. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:24pm

Respectfully submitted,


Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner