

**Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2019**

The Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee held a regular meeting on Monday, March 18, 2019 at Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm Street, Stonington.

Attending were members, Bill Lyman, Curtis Lynch, Stuart Schwartzstein, Michael Schefers, Ben Philbrick, David Hammond, Barbara McKrell – Director of Public Works and Keith A. Brynes – Town Planner. Also in attendance was Director of Planning, Jason Vincent.

Chairman, Rob Simmons and member, Lynn Young were absent.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Lyman at 5:03PM.

Minutes:

Mr. Schwartzstein motioned to approve the minutes of the 1/22/19 meeting; seconded by Mr. Schefers. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion of First Selectman's Priorities:

Mr. Schefers discussed the Stonington Historical Society's new advisory board that will advise on issues such as institution of a 90 day delay on of historic property demolitions. Consensus of the Committee was that Task 7.2.7 regarding adopting a 90 day delay be considered as a "high" priority task by the Board of Selectmen. Regarding Task 8.1.6 to plan for the West Broad St. school, the Selectmen have reconstituted the Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Use of Public Buildings who will investigate this and other properties. The Department of Planning has requested funding under the Capital Improvement Program for construction of sidewalks in several key areas. Capital Improvement requests will be considered by the Board of Finance over the next month.

Discussion of Plan Implementation:

Mr. Lyman discussed progress related to Coastal Resource tasks. The Conway Graduate School has held 2 public meetings to help develop coastal resilience measures in Downtown Mystic. The Planning and Zoning Commission has yet to decide whether to become the "leader" for several tasks assigned to the Department of Planning.

Mr. Hammond discussed progress on agricultural tasks. A private group of farmers has been meeting to discuss mutual issues without direct EDC involvement. Most local farmers have felt that a town agricultural committee is not needed. The group has been proposing municipal tax relief for farmers. This proposal will need Town Meeting approval.

Regarding Natural Resources and Open Space tasks, Mr. Schefers stated that the Conservation Commission will discuss development of an Open Space Plan and Natural Recourse Inventory at future meetings. The Stonington Historical Society may apply for Capital Improvement funding to help implement POCD recommendations.

Mr. Schwartzstein discussed housing and transportation goals and recommended tax incentives for the addition of housing units over outdated and underutilized commercial properties.

Mr. Hammond motioned that the Committee recommend the Planning and Zoning Commission make Task 9.1.9 a high priority; seconded by Mr. Lynch. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hammond described the recent Community Conversation held regarding ideas developed by UCONN Landscape Architecture students for modifications to Coogan Boulevard. Mr. Lynch stated that the comprehensive Zoning Regulations rewrite has been stalled due to the amount of work involved which far exceeds staff time available. The Planning and Zoning Commission must discuss its strategy and priorities regarding updating the regulations. Ms. McKrell departed the meeting at 6:20PM.

Mr. Vincent discussed the need for greater POCD and municipal budget coordination. A municipal Strategic Plan with a 2 year outlook would bridge the gap between vision and budget.

Mr. Lynch motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Lyman. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 6:35PM.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner