

Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2019

The Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee held a regular meeting on Monday, September 16, 2019 at Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm Street, Stonington.

Attending were Chairman, Rob Simmons and members, Curtis Lynch, Stuart Schwartzstein, Ben Philbrick, David Hammond, Lynn Young, John Truscinski and Fran Hoffman and Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner. Also in attendance was Director of Planning, Jason Vincent.

Members, Michael Schefers, Bill Lyman and Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works were absent.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Simmons at 5:00PM.

Minutes:

Mr. Lynch motioned to approve the minutes of the 3/18/19 meeting; seconded by Mr. Hammond. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion of First Selectman's Priorities:

Mr. Simmons summarized the status of several priority items. Regarding Tasks 7.2.9 & 7.3.2, Mr. Schefers stated at a previous meeting that he would draft a 90 day delay ordinance for the demolition of historic structures for consideration. Regarding Task 8.1.6 to plan for the West Broad St. school, the Stonington Facilities Committee is investigating leasing the building to St. Michael's School. The Stonington Facilities Committee is also investigating uses for the School Administration Building in Old Mystic. Task 10.1.4 to bring a 100+ employer to Town has been completed with the ongoing construction of the Hartford Health Care facility at Perkins Farm as well as Electric Boat's use of the Eagle Park office buildings on Rt. 2. Regarding Task 13.2.10 for the installation of sidewalks on Rt. 1 east of the high school, Mr. Simmons detailed the Town's many unsuccessful attempts to lobby the State for funding. Some funding for engineering work has been included in the current fiscal year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Town's current strategy is to prioritize the most dangerous spots and fill in the sidewalks one section at a time. Regarding FEMA accreditation of the Mechanic St. Flood Barriers, some funding has been included in the current CIP which may still not be enough to complete the necessary engineering studies. Due to a recent Zoning Regulation amendment by the Planning and Zoning Commission, any Historic Structures (such as some of the Mechanic St. mill structures) can now be exempt from flood hazard requirements as per FEMA's regulations.

Discussion of Plan Implementation to Date Including Progress Report:

With the appointment of new Committee members, Mr. Lynch recommended the following member roles:

TOPIC	MEMBER
CONSERVATION	
Coastal Resources	Hoffman
Agriculture / Aquaculture	Hoffman
Natural Resources	Hoffman
Open Space	Hoffman
Scenic Resources	Truscinski
Historic Resources	Truscinski
DEVELOPMENT	
Villages	Hammond
Residential Housing	Hammond
Business Development	Hammond
INFRASTRUCTURE	
Community Facilities / Services	Schwartzstein
Utilities	Schwartzstein
Transportation / Mobility	Schwartzstein
Sustainability / Resiliency	Schwartzstein
IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS	
Regulations	Philbrick
Ordinances	Schefers
Finance	Young

Ms. Young motioned to accept Mr. Lynch's recommended member responsibilities; seconded by Mr. Philbrick. The motioned was unanimously approved.

The main roles for member point of contacts were discussed including:

1. Initiating new POCD projects / tasks
2. Championing resources to implement POCD tasks (mainly through the CIP process)
3. Overseeing implementation efforts (who is doing what?).

Mr. Vincent discussed the need for greater alignment between the POCD and municipal budget.

Mr. Hammond motioned to add discussion of the 2020 Regular Meeting Schedule to the agenda; seconded by Mr. Lynch. The motion was unanimously approved. The Committee discussed its meeting schedule for the next year which will be filed with the Town Clerk. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 27, 2020, 5:00PM at Stonington Town Hall.

Discussion FY 2021 Capital Improvement Program:

Mr. Simmons discussed the CIP process. Solicitation for funding requests for the next fiscal year will begin this fall. The Planning Department will forward relevant information to the Committee over the next few months.

Chairman Simmons adjourned the meeting at 6:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner