

Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2019

The Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee held a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm Street, Stonington.

Attending were Vice Chairman, Bill Lyman, Stuart Schwartzstein, Michael Schefers, Ben Philbrick, David Hammond, Barbara McKrell – Director of Public Works and Keith A. Brynes – Town Planner. Also in attendance were Director of Planning, Jason Vincent and Town Engineer, Scot Deledda.

Chairman Rob Simmons and Curtis Lynch were absent.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Lyman at 5:02PM.

Minutes:

Mr. Hammond motioned to approve the minutes of the 9/17/18 meeting; seconded by Mr. Schefers. The motion was unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

Correspondence from the Climate Change Task Force regarding possible staffing and funding of the Stonington Flood and Erosion Control Board.

Mr. Brynes summarized the Task Force's request for a new task to reactivate this town board which was originally formed in 1961 to manage the Pawcatuck Flood Control structure. Mr. Deledda described the Task Force's request which would replace the temporary Task Force with this board. A Flood and Erosion Control Board is given broad powers per State Statutes. In communities of less than 50,000 people, the Board of Selectmen can also act as the Flood and Erosion Control Board. Consensus of the Committee was that the request to populate this board is an issue for the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion of First Selectman's Priorities:

Mr. Vincent discussed several Capital Improvement Program (CIP) requests submitted by the Department of Planning which would help implement POCD tasks. \$100,000 is requested for professional services to update the Town's Comprehensive Plan (Zoning Regulations and Zoning Map). Members were asked to attend the Board of Selectmen's 1/31 meeting in which they will rank CIP requests. The Board of Finance will discuss CIP requests during budget deliberations in March. Mr. Schefers discussed the Stonington Historical Society's formation of a new Historic Preservation Advocacy Committee which can help implement historic preservation goals. Mr. Schwartzstein discussed the Board of Selectmen's inquiries into reactivating the Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Uses of Town Buildings; this committee would investigate reuse of closing schools (W. Broad and Pawcatuck Middle) as well as the School Administration Building. Mr. Vincent stated that the POCD's recommendation to bring a 100+ employer to town has been met with Electric Boat's moving into the Eagle Park property with over 400 employees; the Hartford Health Care facility at Perkins Farm will also meet this goal. The Committee discussed the need for sidewalks in key areas; funding has been requested in this years CIP request.

Discussion of Plan Implementation:

Mr. Lyman discussed progress related to Coastal Resource tasks. The Department of Planning is working with the Conway Graduate School to plan for 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. Tax relief for farmers has been the focus of recent efforts. Mr. Lyman inquired about EDC's Agricultural Subcommittee. With Subcommittee leader Ward Smith's resignation from EDC, the effort has largely become a group of private farmers discussing mutual issues without direct EDC involvement. Most local farmers have felt that a town agricultural committee is not needed. Mr. Lyman asked if the farmers' meetings could be better advertised for interested residents.

Regarding Natural Resources and Open Space tasks, Mr. Schefers stated that the Conservation Commission will discuss development of an Open Space Plan and Natural Resource Inventory at future meetings. Mr. Schwartzstein discussed housing and transportation goals. Planned expansion by Electric Boat will exacerbate the current lack of affordable housing in the region. The Town should promote the addition of housing units in outdated and underutilized commercial properties. Mr. Hammond discussed an upcoming Community Conservation on the future of the Coogan Boulevard area.

Discussion of FY 2020 Capital Improvement Program:

Mr. Vincent described the Capital Improvement Program process. The Committee will have the opportunity to review Dept. of Planning requests.

The next Committee meeting will be Monday, March 18, 2019.

Mr. Lyman motioned to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Hammond. Motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner