

**Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 6, 2017**

The Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee held a regular meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017, at Stonington Town Hall, 152 Elm Street, Stonington.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Simmons at 6:02PM.

*Minutes:*

Mr. Lynch motioned to approve the minutes of the 12/5/16 meeting with 1 correction; seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion was unanimously approved.

*Discussion of Plan Implementation to Date Including Progress Report*

Mr. Lyman summarized progress on Coastal Resiliency tasks. The Commission discussed the planned Comprehensive Zoning Rewrite under which a number of POCD tasks fall. Mr. Lyman suggested that such tasks should be summarized as to which phase of the Rewrite they fall under. Mr. Vincent stated that the Rewrite is subject to the Planning and Zoning Commission's discretion and that so far the Commission has prioritized other projects. A scope of work must be developed and approved by PZC prior to work being done. The first step is likely a reorganization of the Zoning Regulations to be followed by changes to the actual regulations.

Chairman Simmons recommended a new POCD Task to address the Stonington Breakwater repairs under the Coastal Resources chapter. Task leader would be the Board of Selectmen or Department of Public Works. This recommendation will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Smith summarized progress on Agriculture tasks. A Stonington Farm Forum will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> at the Stonington Grange on Pequot Trail to discuss agricultural issues with local farmers and the general public. A forum with the organization Land for Good is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup>. The organization helps partner farmers with owners of underutilized land.

Mr. Lyman summarized progress on Natural Resources and Open Space tasks. Due to a shortage of members, the Conservation Commission will likely not meet until April.

Mr. Schefers summarized progress on Scenic and Historic Resources and Villages. Mr. Schefers recommended the formation of volunteer task forces and could address many of the tasks such as creation of a historic building inventory.

Mr. Hammond discussed progress on Business Development tasks. The Department of Planning, along with EDC, have developed 6 conceptual modifications to the Zoning Regulations to help address POCD

tasks. While only drafts, private property owners or PZC could submit Zoning Amendment applications to formally consider them. EDC has met with a professional marketing team which could offer services to the Town in order to promote business investment and tourism. The Committee discussed recent development approvals that would increase the Town's grand list if constructed.

The Committee discussed tasks related to Sustainability and Resilience. Chris Freeman, president of Clean Up Stonington Harbors (CUSH) addressed the Committee regarding ongoing work with Town government and the K-12 Building Committee to address water quality issues. CUSH has been promoting stormwater best management practices on school grounds and other municipal properties and changes have been made to field management practices. Ms. McKrell stated that improving stormwater quality is a goal and that some DPW employees have recently been trained in organic pesticide application. These measures are supported by several of the policies in the Natural Resources chapter of the POCD.

Mr. Lyman recommended that Task 10.4.2 calling for development of a Comprehensive Economic Development Plan for the Town should be upgraded to a high priority. As Task Leader, EDC will discuss this change at their next meeting. Mr. Lynch discussed PZC's work on Zoning Regulations including approval of 2 new floating zones proposed by the private sector. Mr. Schefers is preparing a matrix of Tasks requiring action through Board of Selectmen ordinances.

#### *New POCD Idea Assessment*

Mr. Vincent distributed a form drafted for consideration of POCD Task Amendments. This form would be used when Committee members or others request the addition of new POCD Tasks or modification of Tasks. The Department of Planning would provide a brief assessment of the idea for the Committee. Examples were distributed for 2 concepts proposed by Mr. Schwartzstein at the last meeting – tasks related to landscaping of town owned land and a streetlight master plan. Tasks requiring municipal funding could be submitted as requests to the Town's Capital Improvement Plan to be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance.

Mr. Vincent distributed the Department of Planning's 2016 Department Activity Report and noted that private sector implementation fulfills many of the POCD tasks.

#### *Discussion of Draft Implementation Committee Guidelines*

Mr. Vincent stated that a public forum on compliance with the Freedom of Information Act with FOI Public Education Officer, Tom Hennick, will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00pm at Stonington Town Hall. Mr. Schefers motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Keith A. Brynes, Town Planner