



PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

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MINUTES PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION & PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT (POCD) STEERING SUBCOMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018 JOINT SPECIAL MEETING 7:00 P.M. CANOE BROOK SENIOR CENTER 11 CHERRY HILL ROAD

Planning & Zoning Commissioners Present : Joe Chadwick, Joe Vaiuso, Fred Russo, Chuck Andres, Marci Palluzzi

Plan of Conservation & Development Steering Committee members Present: Bill Horne, Gavin Renz, Phil Carloni, Vinnie Hanchuruck, Peter Basserman, Barbara Ricozzi

Also Present: Glenn Chalder-(Consultant), Harry Smith- Town Planner, Michelle Martin- Clerk.

1. Call to order.

C. Andres thanked all the members of the Steering Committee for their effort and time spent. It is appreciated.

2. Draft POCD Steering Subcommittee Minutes September 13, 2018.

H. Smith noted the meeting minutes from the last POCD meeting are not complete. When they are, they will be sent to everyone via email.

3. Review –September 27, 2018 Draft 2018 POCD endorsed for transmittal to the Planning and Zoning Commission with a recommendation for consideration and adoption.

C. Andres asked the Steering Committee members for any comments they may have and what issues are important to them.

Bill Horne spoke and said he was happy with the 2008 POCD (Plan of Conservation & Development). Coastal issues are important to him and he spoke of the progress that has been made thus far. He noted the potential for sea level rise is huge and the town needs to look at that from a longer plan window. He then spoke of problem neighborhoods and their issues.

Joe Chadwick said the POCD makes a good link to the TOD (Transit Orient District) study. He noted it's an interesting gesture to recommend the live where you work culture. It's a welcoming possibility.

Vinnie Hanchuruck thought the committee did a good job of balancing both the conservation and the development aspects.

Gavin Renz noted he has a real estate background and felt this document supports the Planning & Zoning Commission as a Roadmap. He spoke of the highway exits in Branford; going forward the 3 exits in town will be a continuing discussion. The POCD will support the direction the town needs to go. It will benefit both businesses and residents alike.

Phil Carloni said he agreed with many of Gavin's comments. He would like to see all the exits treated equally. He also stated every exit should look nice as you enter Branford. Zoning was set up several years ago, maybe review the various zones? He said people are generally happy with how Branford looks, they don't want it ruined. He noted that Bill Horne knowledge was invaluable to the committee. He spoke of wayfinding and making the town friendlier for visitors. Also it is important to make it attractive for the young people so they want to stay in town. Maybe a trolley system within the town?

Glenn Chalder noted that the committee looked at the prior 2008 POCD and reviewed what needed to be done and what actually got accomplished. Many of the important items from the 2008 study were carried forward to this study.

Barbara Ricoszi noted she has a background in transportation and felt the POCD addressed all different forms of transportation.

Peter Basserman felt this was a great opportunity to get a good strategic look at what Branford wants to do. He was impressed with the process as well as the public input received.

Marci Palluzzi She noted how the plan laid out demographics and how you could see where things intersected. She appreciated the holistic nature of the document.

Harry Smith thanked all the members of the committee. He noted there were several meetings but everyone stayed focused. He agreed the public input was extensive and greatly appreciated.

Glenn said he enjoyed working with the Commission; there was good energy and input.

4. Open Public Discussion

PUBLIC INPUT:

Tracy Everson-(Secretary of Thimble Island Assn.)Submitted a letter into the record, which she highlighted. She spoke of the problems they are facing and ways to address them. She suggested possibly forming smaller groups within the different neighborhoods to address problems. Many people are willing to work together to come up with solutions.

Tedd Ells said he would piggyback on Tracy's comments. He mentioned in 2005 there was a strategic plan for Stony Creek. There are summer residents on one of the islands that are professionals who would be happy to offer their services. There are many issues that can be solved.

Wayne Cook submitted a letter to the Town Planner and distributed copies to the committee. He thought the Steering Committee gave the public ample time to speak. He pointed out some issues that could be addressed or changed in the POCD. He said the Steering Committee did an excellent job. The meetings were well run and he appreciates the public opportunity to speak.

Lauren Brown appreciates all the hard work the Committee put in.

Perry Maresca agreed with Lauren. He felt it is a good plan. He thanked the committee.

5. Final Comments & Next Steps.

H. Smith noted he would correct the few typos that were pointed out and present the final version at the 11/1/18 Planning & Zoning Commission meeting. The Commission will then set a Public Hearing Date for January 2019.

6. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.