

July 2, 2013

7:30, Upper Level Mtg Room

Members Present: Ms. Roberts, Mr. Rimsky, Ms. Gager, Mr. Frank, Ms. Jahnke

Members Absent:

Alternates Present: Mr. Carey, Ms. Bishop-Wrabel

Alternates Absent: Mr. Osborne

Staff Present: Ms. Hill, Ms. White

Also Present: Mr. Bedini, Mr. Looney, Planning Consultant

Ms. Roberts, Chair called the Meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Seated: Ms. Roberts, Mr. Frank, Mr. Rimsky, Ms. Jahnke, Ms. Gager

Privilege of the Floor

There were no comments from the public at this time.

Consideration of the Minutes

The Planning Commission considered and discussed the minutes from the 6-4-13 regular meeting.

The commissioners agreed with Ms. Gager's suggestion that the Planning Commission invite the Superintendent of the Region 12 Schools to one of the POCD focus group meetings.

Motion:

To accept the June 4, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Planning Commission as submitted, by Ms. Gager, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed by 5-0 vote.

New Applications

There were no new applications to discuss.

OTHER BUSINESS

Plan of Conservation and Development

Revised Drafts:

The commissioners and Mr. Looney reviewed the latest POCD Draft dated July 2013.

Mr. Carey feels that this most recent draft has a lot of technical reading and he would like to see the final product as "succinct and sharp as possible."

Ms. Roberts agrees that the POCD should be written in a way that the average person from the

public could understand the concepts.

Mr. Looney referred to Section 11 in the 2013 POCD Draft. The Plan Implementation section assigns tasks to certain agencies with specific time frames.

Mr. Rimsky asked if the sections were in any particular order.

After a brief discussion the commissioners agreed that the POCD sections should be arranged based on priority. Mr. Frank suggested that the action items should be at the beginning of each section.

Ms. Roberts recommended that the commissioners look at the Town of Kent POCD on line.

The commissioners and Mr. Looney discussed the reorganization of the content of the sections.

Ms. Bishop-Wrabel feels that the subject of the existing historic districts in Town should be of more importance in the POCD.

The commissioners and Mr. Looney discussed the editing of some of the maps in the draft. Ms. Gager suggested larger maps that could fold out. Mr. Looney stated that the State G.I.S. map is not available yet and the State POCD maps have some inaccuracies. There was a brief discussion regarding whether or not it was a priority to be consistent with the State POCD maps.

Mr. Frank stated that at the beginning of the process the goal was to update the current POCD with emphasis on selected subjects. He feels that this does not seem like an update but a rewriting of the entire plan.

Mr. Looney stated that parts of the 2003 POCD have been weaved into the sections and he feels that a great amount of the group work that has taken place in these meetings has been reflected in the POCD Draft.

There was a brief discussion regarding whether the revised POCD should contain more of the current POCD. Ms. Gager suggested that the introduction of each section should tie the old and the new together and explain any differences.

Ms. Gager suggested using data that are from recognizable sources.

The commissioners and Mr. Looney discussed different sources of data and when the most current data would be available.

Mr. Carey volunteered to work with Mr. Looney on the accuracy of the maps. He stated that there are things that are mentioned in the draft that are in the works right now and may be finished by the time this draft is updated.

Ms. Gager suggested highlighting the items in the draft that are in the process of being executed. She also recommended that specific businesses not be mentioned by name.

The commissioners and Mr. Looney discussed how the updates of the draft should be presented to the commissioners for review. It was suggested that the changes be typed in boldface or otherwise emphasized.

Mr. Carey stated that the floodplain work of the Depot has been completed and the information is available in the Selectmen's Office.

There was a brief discussion regarding the significance of home-based businesses in Washington. Data concerning the number of commuters in and out of the Town of Washington was discussed. Mr. Looney stated that he would double check the numbers reported in this data.

The commissioners and Mr. Looney continued to discuss editing items.

Mr. Looney stated that he would review all comments from the commissioners and would prepare a revised draft, which should be ready in about two weeks.

A Special Meeting of the Town of Washington Planning Commission was scheduled for Wednesday, July 24, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Upper Level Meeting Room at Bryan Memorial Town Hall for the purpose of continuing the review of the POCD draft.

There was a brief discussion regarding organizing focus groups.

Bryan Memorial Plaza Improvements:

Mr. Rimsky stated that at this time, he has not been contacted regarding the Bryan Memorial Plaza Improvement Committee.

Communications

There were no communications to discuss.

Administrative Business

There was no administrative business to discuss.

Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn by Mr. Frank, seconded by Mr. Rimsky.

Ms. Gager adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

SUBMITTED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL:

Shelley White, Land Use Clerk

A recording of this meeting is available to the public in the Land Use Office.