

January 7, 2014

7:30 Upper Level Mtg Room

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

Alternates Present: Mr. Carey, Mr. Bedini

Alternates Absent: Ms. Bishop-Wrabel

Staff Present: Ms. White, Ms. Hill

Also: Mr. Hileman

Ms. Gager, called the Meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Seated: Gager, Rimsky, Frank, Jahnke, Carey, Alt.

Consideration of the Minutes:

Regular Meeting - 12/3/13

The commissioners considered the minutes of the regularly scheduled December 3, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting.

Motion:

to accept the December 3, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Planning Commission as submitted,

by Mr. Frank, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed by 5-0 vote.

Subsequent Business Not Already on the Agenda:

Motion:

to add the following Subsequent Business to the Agenda:

1. Discussion of Main Street Seminar on January 24, 2014,
 2. Referral from the Zoning Commission,
 3. Discussion/Voting of Officers for the Planning Commission,
- by Ms. Gager, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed by 5-0 vote.

Other Business:

Plan of Conservation and Development

Mr. Hileman was present to review the edited chapters 1-5 with the commissioners.

The commissioners discussed an acknowledgement to Ms. Roberts in the updated POCD for her years on the Planning Commission.

Mr. Carey stated that he would draft a statement and send it to Ms. Hill for her to distribute amongst the commissioners for comment and then to Mr. Hileman to include in the edited version of the draft POCD.

There was a brief discussion regarding the maps that would be included in the updated POCD.

Mr. Carey volunteered to submit his review of the maps to Ms. Hill. He stated that he does not feel that the "State POCD Areas" map should be included in the Town of Washington POCD.

The commissioners discussed whether this map is required by State Statute to be in the POCD and it was the consensus of the Commission that they would verify this before deleting it from the draft.

Mr. Hileman and the commissioners discussed Chapter 1 and agreed that the Planning Commission would recommend that each town commission would include a section dealing with the status of its implementation of its POCD action items implementation in its annual report.

Mr. Hileman feels that the main editing issue with Chapter 2 and the chapters that follow is making sure that the action agendas are accurate.

The commissioners and Mr. Hileman agreed that some of the goals could be consolidated and the action agendas should outline the goals and strategies that are discussed in the chapter. It was noted that the Planning Commission would like to submit the updated POCD the Board of Selectmen and the regional planning agency in February in a form ready for public comment. More changes may be required after this phase of the updating process.

Mr. Rimsky feels that it is important for the Planning Commission to make sure the updated POCD is conceptually strong.

There was a brief discussion regarding the deadline for changes to the document.

The commissioners discussed the goal of the second issue in Chapter 2 "Washington must accept the dynamics of the school enrollment trends in order to plan for the Town's future educational needs." There was an emphasis on the importance of educating the public about the consequences of inaction on the Town.

Mr. Hileman explained what he edited in Chapter 3 and went over the goals in this chapter.

There was a discussion regarding promoting agriculture in the town and state.

Mr. Rimsky feels that it is necessary to encourage agriculture in the Town of Washington, as it is part of the town's history and currently there is a growing economic force behind "Growing Locally."

Mr. Bedini believes the language in Chapter 6 is inconsistent with that of Chapter 3. Mr. Rimsky agreed with Mr. Bedini. The commissioners discussed the changes necessary to resolve the conflict.

There was a brief discussion regarding the reevaluation of properties.

The commissioners and Mr. Hileman agreed that the document should state that "the Town's Volunteer Boards, Commissions and Agencies will be critical in developing economic growth strategies."

Mr. Hileman stated he received feedback from Ms. Hill for Chapter 4-Village Centers and that he

will make revisions and consolidate entries using Ms. Hill's suggestions. It was recommended that after Mr. Hileman edits this chapter further that it be sent to Ms. Hill for distribution to the commissioners.

Ms. Hill suggested that the document express that the Planning Commission and Zoning Commission must work together in identifying areas which may be appropriate for Village District designation.

The commissioners and Mr. Hileman discussed Chapter 5-Sustainability and the editing that was done. They agreed that learning more about sustainability is an important goal. The commissioners suggested relocating goals 2 and 3 to Chapter 6 and Goal 4 to Chapter 7.

Mr. Hileman stated that he had changed the title of Chapter 6-Natural Resources, Open Space and Recreation to delete 'Recreation' because it is not mentioned in this chapter.

Mr. Rimsky volunteered to forward his suggestions for the first paragraph of Chapter 6 to Ms. Hill.

Mr. Hileman stated that he would be sending the edited Chapter 7 to the Commission before the end of this week. He believes that the editing of the entire document should reduce the length of the text by about 40%.

The commissioners scheduled a Special Meeting of the Planning Commission for January 21, 2014 at 7:30 at Bryan Memorial Town Hall to continue its review of the editing of the draft POCD.

There was a brief discussion regarding the timeline for the finished updated POCD. Ms. Gager recommended that all the commissioners come to the February 4, 2014 regular meeting with final comments for Mr. Hileman so he can finish the editing and send it to Milone & MacBroom for review, processing and delivery to the Board of Selectmen and the regional planning agency.

Plaza Improvements:

Ms. Gager stated that she contacted First Selectman Lyon and asked why the Planning Commission has not been part of the discussion and process for the Plaza Improvements. Mr. Lyon sent her the Request for Qualification that was sent out to potential contractors.

Mr. Rimsky stated that he had also received a copy of the first and second draft of RFQ. He said that decisions would have to be made when the contractors are chosen for the work but that the actual plan for this project has not been defined.

Ms. Gager requested that the Selectman's Office forward a report to the Planning Commission on the progress of this project.

Mr. Bedini recommended that the Commission ask for a statement of the Scope of Work.

Administrative Business:

2014 NHCOC Survey

Ms. Hill went over the survey with the commissioners and recorded their responses. She stated that she would mail the survey back to the Council of Governments.

Main Street Seminar 1/24

Ms. Hill informed the commissioners that the CT Main Street Center's Downtown Revitalization Institute would be holding a workshop titled: Main Street is the Greenest Street, Sustainable strategies for your town at the Lyceum in Hartford from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm on January 24, 2014.

Referral from Zoning Commission: Regulation Changes

Ms. Hill distributed the revisions that are being considered for Sections 1-12 in the Town of Washington Zoning Regulations.

Ms. Gager asked that the commissioners review the revisions and be prepared to discuss them at the February 4, 2014 regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meeting.

Miscellaneous

Ms. Hill distributed an excerpt from the report entitled "Connecticut Climate Change Preparedness Plan," by the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change, to the commissioners.

Ms. Gager stated that she has strongly recommended to the First Selectman that Mr. Hileman be considered for the open Alternate position on the Planning Commission following the completion of his work on the POCD.

Nominations/Voting for Officers of the Planning Commission

Mr. Frank nominated Ms. Gager for Chairman of the Planning Commission. There were no additional nominations.

Motion:

to approve the election of Sarah Gager as Chairman of the Planning Commission, by Mr. Frank, seconded by Mr. Rimsky, passed unanimously.

Ms. Gager nominated Mr. Frank for Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission. There were no additional nominations.

Motion:

to approve the election of Paul Frank as the Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission, by Ms. Gager, seconded by Ms. Jahnke, passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

Motion:

to adjourn at 9:30 pm, by Ms. Jahnke.

Ms. Gager adjourned the meeting.

SUBMITTED SUBJECT TO APPROVAL:

Shelley White, Land Use Clerk

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