

TOWN OF WESTERLY  
**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting – August 9, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.  
Development Services Conference Room – Town Hall

**A. 5:00 P.M. CALL TO ORDER**

**Members Present:** Gail Mallard, Chair  
Joe MacAndrew, Vice Chair  
Faith Bessette-Zito  
James J. Federico, III

**Members Absent:** Stuart Blackburn  
Gina T. Fuller  
Nancy Richmond

**Staff Present:** Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate

**B. 5:00 P.M. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of July 26, 2017 was made by Mr. MacAndrew and seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito. The motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

**C. 5:00 P.M. DISUCSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The committee was in consensus to schedule its next meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 and to discuss changing future meeting times at that meeting.

**D. 5:01 P.M. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT PLAN**

**Quarries**

The committee was in consensus to revise the action item “Adopt an Extraction...” as “As adopt an Extraction... the environment, in general, and the quality of life for nearby residents.”

**Enforcement of Water Conservation during Droughts**

The committee was in consensus to insert the sentence “At present, enforcement of water consumption during droughts is problematic.” within the Services and Facilities chapter of Appendix I.

Discussion was held regarding how the Town monitored water consumption.

The committee was in consensus to insert the sentence “There are models in other communities where enforcement of water consumption restrictions has been shown to have positive results.” within the Services and Facilities chapter of Appendix I following the sentence “At present, enforcement...”

**Sewer District Extension**

The committee was in consensus existing text was sufficient to address the possibility of any future extension of the municipal sewer system.

**Food Waste Composting**

The committee was in consensus to revise the action item “Achieve 35 percent...” as “Achieve 35 percent... and increasing recycling and composting opportunities...”

### **Recommendations of Energy Audits**

The committee was in consensus to consider inserting an action item regarding periodic reviews of recommendations of the energy audit conducted by Johnson Controls, Inc. in 2011.

### **Repository for Supporting Documents**

Mr. Delaney stated the Planning Office was in the process of inserting hyperlinks where reports and other relevant publications were referenced in the draft Comprehensive Plan. Any other documents not referenced in the draft Comprehensive Plan directly but deemed relevant could be included as a third appendix.

### **Clarification on Action Items**

Mr. Delaney stated that the Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Act required action items related to the Zoning Ordinance be completed within a scheduled timeframe while all other action items were required to be scheduled.

### **Aquifer and Wellhead Protection**

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “Special considerations should... risk of contamination.” from Chapter Four of Appendix I and insert the text as an action item under Sustainable Natural Resources.

The committee was in consensus to insert the action item “Extend the Aquifer Protection Overlay District in adherence to the recommendation included in the GeolInsight Report, 2015.” was inserted into the Implementation Plan under Sustainable Natural Resources.

### **Relocation of Railroad**

The committee was in consensus the existing text was sufficient following the Record of Decision regarding the Northeast Corridor (NEC) Future plan.

### **Wind Energy**

The committee was in consensus to insert the action item “Adopt regulations allowing residential wind energy facilities and solar power systems and establishing standards for their design, installation, operation and maintenance to protect residents’ quality of life, public health and safety and to preserve historic, natural and scenic resources.” under Energy Alternatives in the Implementation Plan.

*Mr. Federico exited at 6:08 p.m. Ms. Mallard stated the committee would not make any motions following Mr. Federico’s exit except to adjourn.*

### **Balancing Economic Development and Quality of Life**

The committee was in consensus the vision statement of the draft Plan was sufficient to address the need for balance between economic development and the quality of residents’ lives.

### **Removal of Potter Hill Dam**

The committee was in consensus to revise the action item “Remove the Potter... by the USACOE.” as “Remove the Potter... by the USACOE and per recommendation of the...” with Planning Staff to identify and reference the Wood-Pawcatuck flood resiliency plan.

The committee was in consensus to insert the action item “Support the federal designation of the Pawcatuck River as a Wild and Scenic river.”

### **Rezoning Cemeteries as Open Space/Recreation**

Discussion was held regarding whether the existing Zoning Ordinance should be amended, revised and/or updated.

### **Stillmanville Bridge (Stillman Avenue Bridge)**

The committee was in consensus to insert the action item “Ensure transportation infrastructure, particularly bridges and culverts, is routinely evaluated for safe circulation.” under Safe Circulation in the Implementation Plan.

### **Westerly State Airport**

The committee was in consensus to revise Policy Three under Transportation Assets in the Implementation Plan as “Evaluate ways to maintain a balance between the needs of residents and the needs of Westerly State Airport within the airport’s historic configuration and without the airport’s intensification of use.”

The committee was in consensus to insert the action item “Develop and implement a strategy that better utilizes the existing capacity of the Airport Industrial Park to enhance commercial business activity and increase job opportunities.” under Economic Resilience in the Implementation Plan.

The committee was in consensus to insert the action item “Develop and implement a strategy which allows the Town to receive baseline data and routinely receive updated information regarding airport operations, use and configurations for routine tracking of said activities to monitor for any potential future intensification.” under Transportation Assets in the Implementation Plan.

The committee was in consensus to insert the action item “To the extent possible, prevent intensification of the use of the airport.” under Transportation Assets in the Implementation Plan.

### **E. 6:52 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **F. 6:52 P.M. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. MacAndrew and seconded by Ms. Richmond. The motion

**CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Minutes for the August 9, 2017 meeting submitted by:



Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate