

TOWN OF WESTERLY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CITIZEN’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting – September 20, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.
Assessment Department Hallway – Town Hall – 45 Broad Street

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

- Members Present:** Gail Mallard, Chair
Joseph MacAndrew, Vice Chair
Faith Bessette-Zito
Stuart Blackburn
- Members Absent:** James J. Federico, III
Gina T. Fuller
Nancy Richmond
- Liaisons Present:** Catherine DeNoia, Planning Board
- Staff Present:** Benjamin Delaney, Planning Associate

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

Motion by Mr. MacAndrew, seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito, to approve the minutes of September 6, 2017. The motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

C. 5:00 P.M. DISCUSSION – FUTURE MEETINGS

Ms. Mallard stated the committee’s next meeting would be held on October 4, 2017.

D. 5:01 P.M. DISCUSSION – DRAFT PRIMARY REPORT AND APPENDICES

Ms. Mallard noted she had requested a joint meeting with the Planning Board to update the Board on the draft Comprehensive Plan and the Chair of the Planning Board confirmed the committee would be welcome to attend the Board’s next workshop meeting, which had not yet been scheduled.

Ms. DeNoia confirmed the Board had met the previous evening and scheduled a workshop meeting for Thursday, October 5, 2017.

Mr. Delaney confirmed for Ms. Mallard a sub-item would be included on the October 4, 2017 meeting agenda for discussion of the joint meeting. He also confirmed he would send copies of draft Appendix I in its current state to the committee.

Implementation Plan – Sustainable Natural Resources

The committee was in consensus to revise the goal “Protect and enhance... from natural hazards.” as “Protect and enhance... and to mitigate the negative effects from natural hazards.”

The committee was in consensus to eliminate “(down-zone)” from “Enact an ordinance.... to those areas” and to assign the action a short-time length, the Planning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Office, Zoning Board of Review and Town Council as responsible parties and 23 work hours.

The committee was in consensus to assign the action “Consider conservation development... impacts from stormwater.” an ongoing time-length and the Planning Board as responsible party.

The committee was in consensus to revise “Coordinated” as “Coordinate” in the action... “Coordinate efforts to... actions as necessary.” and to assign the action an ongoing time-length and the Building Office as responsible party.

The committee was in consensus to assign the action “Provide all local... and possible implementation.” A short-term and ongoing time-length, the Town Manager as responsible entity and a

cost of \$10,000.00 for 30 decision makers.

The committee was in consensus to revise the action “Continue with the... water-dependent recreation.” as “Secure funding for continued open space... water-dependent recreation.” and to assign the action an ongoing time-length and the Town Manager and Town Council as responsible parties.

The committee was in consensus to assign the action “Review the zoning... aquifer protection zones.” a short-term time-length, the Planning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Office and Zoning Board of Review as responsible parties and 15 work hours.

The committee was in consensus to eliminate the action “Encourage the preparation... environmentally sustainable practices.”

The committee was in consensus to revise “Westerly’s” as “the Town of Westerly’s” in the action “Explore opportunities for... Westerly’s conservation areas,” to assign the Westerly Municipal Land Trust, the Recreation Department, the Recreation Board and the Economic Development Commission as responsible parties and 48 work hours annually.

The committee was in consensus to establish the action “Re-establish access to and maintain CRMC designated rights-of-way to the shoreline and the Pawcatuck River.” and to assign the action a short-term and ongoing time-length and the Conservation Commission as responsible party.

The committee was in consensus to assign the action “Develop a River... updated Zoning Ordinance.” a short-term time-length, the Planning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Office and Zoning Board of Review as responsible parties and 23 work hours.

The committee was in consensus to assign the action “Update zoning for... preserved from development.” a short-term time-length, the Planning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Office and Zoning Board of Review as responsible parties and 15 work hours. The committee noted the completion of the action would impact the buildout analysis.

The committee was in consensus to eliminate the action “Extend the Aquifer... GeoInsight Report, 2015.” and revise the action “Special considerations should... risk of contamination.” as “... risk of contamination. The GeoInsight Report, 2015 has recommended extending the Aquifer Protection Overlay District and has identified pre-existing, non-conforming uses.” The committee assigned the action the Planning Office, Planning Board, Zoning Office and Zoning Board of Review as responsible parties and 23 work hours.

The committee was in consensus to establish the action “Relocate the Westerly Public Schools Bus Refueling Station as recommended in the GeoInsight Report, 2015.” and assign the action a short-term time-length, the School Committee, Superintendent of Schools, Town Manager, Town Council and Department of Public Works as responsible parties and a cost of \$0.5 million.

Implementation Plan – Safe Circulation

The committee was in consensus to revise the policy “Explore strategies that... and local businesses.” as “Explore... access to the shoreline... businesses.”

The committee was in consensus to revise the action “Revise development standards... and redeveloped projects.” as “Revise development standards to require safe pedestrian and non-vehicular access within new and redeveloped projects.” and assign the action a medium-term time-length, the Planning Office and Planning Board as responsible parties and 23 work hours.

The committee was in consensus to revise the action “Improve the safety... and Elm Street.” as “... Road and the intersection of Canal Street, Friendship Street and Industrial Drive.” and to assign the action a long-term time-length, the Police Department, Engineering Division, Highways Division and Planning Office as responsible parties and a cost of \$100,000.00.

The committee was in consensus to assign the action “Continue to fund... replacement and maintenance.” An ongoing time-length and the Engineering Division and Highways Division as responsible parties.

The committee was in consensus to revise the action “Provide good pedestrian... sidewalks and trails.” as “Identify densely-built neighborhoods and non-residential districts experiencing high pedestrian traffic as priorities for installing sidewalks and trails.”

The committee was in consensus to revise the action “Identify, evaluate and... and stormwater outfalls.” as “Evaluate and improve evacuation routes, taking into consideration the location of stormwater outfalls.” and assign the action a medium-term time-length and the Emergency Management Coordinator, Police Department, Engineering Division and Highways Division as responsible parties.

The committee was in consensus to revise the action “Prioritize replacement of... decrease washout potential.” as “Prioritize the replacement... potential through routine evaluations for safe circulation.” and to assign the action a medium-term time-length and the Emergency Management Coordinator, Police Department, Engineering Division and Highways Division as responsible parties through bonding.

The committee was in consensus to revise the action “Remove hazardous trees... infrastructure as needed.” as “Evaluate hazardous trees... utilities and roadways and prepare a schedule to address such hazards as needed.” and to assign the action item an ongoing time-length and the Highways Division as responsible party.

The committee was in consensus to eliminate the action “Ensure transportation infrastructure... for safe circulation.”

E. 6:53 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

F. 6:53 P.M. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. MacAndrew, seconded by Ms. Bessette-Zito, to adjourn. The motion **CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Minutes for the September 20, 2017 meeting submitted by:



Benjamin Delaney
Planning Associate