

TOWN OF NEWINGTON
OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

MARCH 14, 2019 - 6:30 P.M.

Town Hall - Conference Room 1 (McKay Room)

AGENDA

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. ANNUAL MEETING

Documents:

[TP MEMO RE ANNUAL MEETING 14MAR2019.PDF](#)

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Documents:

[MINUTES OPEN SPACE 08NOV2018.PDF](#)

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Plan Of Conservation And Development Update

Documents:

[TP MEMO RE POCD 14MAR2019.PDF](#)

B. Wethersfield Bicycle And Pedestrian Stakeholders Advisory Committee

Documents:

[TP MEMO RE WETH BIKE-PED 14MAR2019.PDF](#)

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

IX. ADJOURN

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Town Planner

To: Open Space Committee
From: Town Planner Craig Minor, AICP
Date: March 7, 2019
Subject: Annual Meeting for 2018

This is an activity that boards and commissions normally conduct annually in December, but there was no quorum at the December 13, 2018 meeting and the January and February 2019 meeting were cancelled.

At an Annual Meeting the Committee needs to do two things:

1. Elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and a Secretary for 2019.
2. Approve the calendar of meeting dates for 2019. There are no holidays on the second Thursday of any month in 2019 so approval of the calendar will be simple.

Open Space Committee: 2019 Meeting Dates

Meets on the 2nd Thursday at 6:30 p.m. – Conference Room L-101

Jan. 10	Feb. 14	March 14	April 11
May 9	June 13	July 11	Aug. 8
Sept. 12	Oct. 10	Nov. 14	Dec. 12
**JAN. 9, 2020 (in Room L-100)			

** ZBA meeting to take place on same date in L-101.

cc:
file

Phone: (860) 665-8575 Fax: (860) 665-8577
townplanner@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov

NEWINGTON OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2018

Vice Chairman Carol Wojtowicz called the regular meeting of the Newington Open Space Committee to order at 6:30 pm in Room L-101 of Newington Town Hall, 131 Cedar Street, Newington, CT.

Commissioners Present:

- Chairman Bernadette Conway (arrived 6:50 pm)
- Commissioner Gail Budrejko
- Commissioner Carol Wojtowicz
- Commissioner Chris Miner

Commissioners Absent:

- Commissioner Dunning

Town Staff Present:

- Town Planner Craig Minor

2018 NOV 12 AM 8:33
 TOWN CLERK
 [Signature]

I. ROLL CALL

The presence of the above members was noted.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Budrejko made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Miner. All were in favor.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. October 11, 2018

Commissioner Miner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Budrejko. All were in favor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Next Plan of Conservation and Development

Town Planner Minor presented a copy of a memo that he recently sent to TPZ outlining the POCD update process, with recommendations. The recommendations included that TPZ establish an oversight committee of some sort to manage the POCD update process, rather than the entire TPZ try to do it. The oversight committee could be composed of either some TPZ commissioners and some citizens representing the various "special interest groups" in town, or all citizens with no TPZ commissioners. This will be discussed by TPZ members at their next meeting on November 14, 2018. Commissioner Budrejko said that the committee should not be too large, and that there ought to be a series of individual workshops for the public on the various topics that the POCD is supposed to address. Town Planner Minor said that he would keep the Committee advised as the POCD update proceeds.

b. Privately-Owned Undeveloped Parcels

The Committee continued its review of an aerial photograph of town, looking at undeveloped parcels. Two parcels were found that the Committee agreed would be appropriate for further investigation.

c. Wethersfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Stakeholders Advisory Committee

Commissioner Miner and Councilwoman Anest described a meeting that they recently attended in Wethersfield of the Wethersfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Stakeholders Advisory Committee. That committee is looking into ways to improve bike access throughout Wethersfield.

The town recently received a \$400,000 grant to make bike and pedestrian improvements to town roads. Wethersfield has many streets with no sidewalks, and they are looking to install asphalt sidewalks instead of the more expensive concrete ones. Commissioner Miner said that he has reached out to the new owner of the bicycle store in Newington Center to see if he would be interested in helping establish a bicycle advocacy group in Newington. Commissioner Miner said that bicycle use has become very popular in the western states, and is getting increasingly popular in CT. It's good for the community vitality and for economic development. He mentioned that in East Hartford where he works, the DOT recently conducted what's known as a "road diet" at Burnside Avenue, reducing it from four lanes to two, making it more conducive for bikes but also with the result of seeing fewer cars on Burnside Avenue. For the first six months it was painful as traffic had to deal with two fewer lanes, but over time many of those drivers started taking a different route, resulting in less traffic on Burnside. He wondered why DOT couldn't do this for Cedar Street.

Councilwoman Anest said that she plans to attend future meetings of the Wethersfield group, and asked the Open Space Committee members if this was an item that they might be interested in supporting here in Newington. The Wethersfield effort is being supported by the Central CT Health District, and CCHD Executive Director Charles Brown is available to attend a future meeting of the Newington Open Space Committee. Chairman Conway thanked Councilwoman Anest and Commissioner Miner for their presentation and asked the Town Planner to keep this item on future agendas.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

VIII. Adjourn

Commissioner Miner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Budrejko. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Craig Minor, AICP
Town Planner

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Town Planner

To: Open Space Committee
From: Town Planner Craig Minor, AICP
Date: March 8, 2019
Subject: Plan of Conservation and Development Update

The Town has received five "Proposals" (a detailed statement of qualifications, and a detailed outline of how they would approach the task if selected) from highly-qualified planning firms to assist the Town Plan and Zoning Commission with the POCD update. I am reviewing those proposals now.

The TPZ previously decided that it would manage the POCD update process directly, rather than create an oversight committee which would include some non-TPZ commissioners. Instead, TPZ intends to solicit input from the public at appropriate times. Each of the five proposals contains a different method for obtaining public input. This will probably be an important factor in TPZ's decision as to which firm to hire.

cc:
file

Phone: (860) 665-8575 Fax: (860) 665-8577
townplanner@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

Town Planner

To: Open Space Committee

From: Town Planner Craig Minor, AICP

Date: March 8, 2019

Subject: Wethersfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Stakeholders Advisory Committee

At the November 2018 meeting of the Open Space Committee (the most recent meeting of the Committee), Commissioner Miner and Councilwoman Anest reported on a meeting that they attended in Wethersfield of a citizens committee that is looking into ways to improve bike access throughout Wethersfield. Wethersfield had recently received a \$400,000 grant from the State of Connecticut under DOT's "Community Connectivity" program, to make bike and pedestrian improvements to town roads.

The Town of Newington has also received a Community Connectivity grant, in the amount of \$75,000 to make bike and pedestrian improvements to Garfield Street. These include bike-friendly catch basin grates, sharrows, restricted travel lanes (to create wider road shoulders for bicyclists and pedestrians), handicapped ramps, and signalized cross walks (see attached graphic). The Town staff is preparing construction drawings and bid documents for this project, but the actual work will have to wait until after the new Town Hall/Community Center is finished since Garfield Street will be heavily-travelled by construction vehicles for the new Town Hall.

Newington has also received a major DOT grant to make significant improvements to Robbins Avenue, which will include bike lanes.

cc:
file

Phone: (860) 665-8575 Fax: (860) 665-8577
townplanner@newingtonct.gov
www.newingtonct.gov