

TOWN OF WARREN
PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
Special Meeting Minutes – Town Boards, Commissions & Organization Input Meeting
Monday, February 11, 2019 - 7:00PM
Warren Town Hall – 50 Cemetery Road, Warren, CT

PRESENT: Susan Bates, Howard Lethbridge; ZEO, Stacey Sefcik; Secretary, Brenda Zampaglione

ABSENT: John Papp

GUESTS: George Githens, ZBA; Rebecca Holmes, LWA; Karen Griswold, NWCD; Waltraud Tammen, Rebecca Neary, Tim Angevine & Elizabeth Chandler, WLT; Stephen Warshaw & Craig Nelson, BOS; Paul Elconin, Weantinoge Land Trust; Eric Schoenfeld, BOF; Sean Hayden, LWTF, Jocelyn Ayer, NHCOC, Jane Manley, AHC & Friends of Library

Ms. Bates started the meeting with a short memorial thanking Kelly Tobin for her service on the POCD Subcommittee and on the Planning and Zoning Commission. Ms. Tobin recently passed away.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. All members present were seated for the meeting. The proceedings were digitally recorded, and copies are available in the Land Use Office.

- 2.** Ms. Bates handed the meeting over to Jocelyn Ayers of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments. Ms. Ayers thanked and welcomed all visitors. Introductions were then made. Ms. Ayer gave a quick overview of the POCD manual to date. All guests were invited to give the opinions to their portions of the POCD manual, additions, deletions. Ms. Ayer wants to insure that each group that is tasked with leading a goal was comfortable with their role in implementing the goal.

Warren Land Trust: Elizabeth Chandler spoke on behalf of the Warren Land Trust regarding Project Kick-off. An application for a grant from the CT Department of Agriculture for Farm Viability Project was awarded to WLT. The information for this grant was taken from the 2009-2019 POCD and from the surveys taken for the current POCD draft. The grants main goal is to support the town to help identify strategies for the preservation, viability and sustainable farming practices for the town. Paul Elconin, Weantinoge Land Trust, then spoke to the partners on the grant, Warren Land Trust, Lake Waramaug Task Force, Town of Warren and Soil Scientist, Kip Koltenskip. Looking at farming and farmland throughout the town there are 6 outcomes:

- Inventory all agricultural properties including leased farm land. (outcome: deliverable map that shows all farmland in town)
- Identify which farms are eligible for various land protection programs from state and government and local protection efforts (outcome: soils on property and percentage of ag soils on properties will be mapped)
- Soil tests will be done on 8 farms to determine eligibility for farm land protection programs
- A survey will be conducted on all farm land and leased farm land owners in town to gauge how the town can support their efforts or attract new farmers including linking farmers with Farmlink.net, an online website which links farm land owners with farmers who want to lease their properties
- Water quality component of the grant was discussed by Sean Hayden of Lake Waramaug Task Force. Part of the grant will help teach farmers practices to employ to protect water quality. Many resources are available both technical and financial.
- This will culminate with a town wide meeting at the end of the year with the results and a written report. All information culminated is going to be on a voluntary basis.

Ms. Ayer then commenced the meeting by giving an overview on input from surveys and forum/stakeholder meetings held by the POCD Subcommittee thus far to create the current draft. At this evening's meeting input will be requested regarding goals and actions, the draft will be revised, an April Public hearing for adoption of the document will be held the plan will then be implemented.

Polling cards were distributed to all guests. Guests were polled regarding the current POCD draft. Ms. Sefcik informed all attending that the POCD draft document that was emailed has since been revised. An additional goal (#5) was added by the Warren Land Trust to the document pertaining to protection of natural resources town wide. Ms. Ayer then asked if there were any specific goals or action plans that needs to be addressed:

Board of Finance: Eric Schoenfeld - The POCD does not take into account extraordinary bandwidth of all the groups involved. Park and Recreation department is very critical of plan as written (no representative for Parks & Rec at this meeting). Hire a facilitator to oversee the POCD document and the groups involved in the tasking of goals to help adhere to the plan. This person would work with all groups to help reach the goals of the POCD. This should be written into the document as well as ways to look for ways to fund this position. In addition, the tax incentives are a good idea, however, cautioning not to make it negative for existing business owners. A question regarding sewer avoidance was mentioned as to the specific reason for not having sewer lines in Warren, clarification for the residents exactly why it is not needed in Warren and added to POCD was requested. Also a need for better water quality town wide was expressed.

Warren Land Trust: Elizabeth Chandler – WLT currently uses the POCD, results are revitalized trails and outdoor recreational programming. Please see above for more comments on incorporating Goal #5 to the POCD.

Warren Historical Society: Rebecca Neary, Vice President, will look over the plan with John Favreau, President, for additions and deletions thus far, have no concerns about meeting goals.

Lake Waramaug Task Force: Sean Hayden looks forward to meeting goals of the POCD.

Warren Affordable Housing Corporation: Jane Manley – newly organized and currently have no funding. Money will be fund raised by AHC. Add to POCD “Explore grants and funding options for AHC”.

Friends of Warren Library: Jane Manley – As a very important part of our town, was saddened not to see it in the POCD. The building is in need of upgrades as the facilities are aging (bathroom/entrance). In addition, getting the building within ADA compliance which is currently being looked into. Ms. Manley will give Ms. Sefcik input on the library and the POCD.

Northwest Conservation District: Karen Griswold – Thanks the Subcommittee for incorporating water quality connection and economic development into the POCD. Ms. Griswold cannot stress enough the importance of implementing the POCD. She suggested meeting on a yearly basis with all stakeholders to discuss implementation and goals.

Board of Selectmen: Stephen Warshaw & Craig Nelson – A Cooperative Committee meets yearly with a representative from most organizations in town, to discuss and coordinate events and activities and has been on-going for some time. There has been difficulty getting a representative from all groups to join the meeting, some groups haven't been represented in some time. Items at this meeting are generally published in the quarterly newsletter from the town. The webpage was discussed as the web page is not capable of adding a separate web page. Job growth within the town and outside of the town was mentioned. Support of other town's new businesses such as Torrington or New Milford to help promote job growth in Warren and to keep people in town is needed.

Lake Waramaug Authority: Rebecca Holmes - The Authority is well funded and able to step in to achieve goals.

Zoning Board of Appeal: - George Githens – Eradication of invasive weeds at Fiddler's Pond was discussed. Fish have been added to decrease invasive weed problem over time. Per Mr. Nelson, the pond had 50% less growth last summer than the previous year. Tennis courts and a need for one was mentioned, are there plans in place?

Parks and Recreation: Jocelyn spoke on behalf of Don Murphy who phoned her with his concerns earlier today. Construction of a new playground was remarked on. We currently have two playgrounds, one at school and one at the town beach. Do we need another playground (Don's feedback)? Teen and Senior programming in conjunction with the library was requested. Also, the lack of volunteers to chaperone activities was commented on. Hire someone part-time to chaperone events for teens There is currently an indoor basketball pick-up game but there is no one to open, chaperone and close the building. Create more teen programs as a goal. Usage of the HUB space that the town received a grant for should be utilized.

Mapping was discussed – more work needs to be done to in this area.

Ms. Ayers asked for any and all feedback from stakeholders on any issue within the next week to be considered for inclusion in the POCD.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. November 26, 2018 Regular meeting
- b. January 14, 2019 Special Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Lethbridge, second, Ms. Bates to **TABLE** the **November 26, 2018** Regular meeting and **January 14, 2019** Special Meeting **minutes**;

APPROVED: UNANIMOUSLY ABSTENTIONS: NONE MOTION CARRIED

4. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Lethbridge, second, Ms. Bates to **AJOURN** the meeting at 8:23 PM

APPROVED: UNANIMOUSLY MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Zampaglione

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Land Use Secretary