

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
THE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
STEERING COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**August 9, 2012**

**7:00 pm -TOWN HALL**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular POCD meeting was called to order by Chairman Bradley Pellissier at 7:00 pm. Members present were: Vice Chairman Clifford Bordeaux, William Salka, Greg Genlot, Adam Van Wingerden, David Palmer, Jill Conklin, Karl Walton, Kathy Devlin and Dave Reed.

**II. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. POCD Discussion**

Committee members went over the results of the Somers Community Needs Survey. Mr. Salka handed out copies of the survey results for everyone to review. The committee also discussed the report put together that shows what has been accomplished thus far. Committee members would like to find a time to schedule the POCD's first informational meeting.

New strategies were discussed for the POCD. Mrs. Devlin addressed concerns regarding keeping the safety and integrity of existing structures in the town. Having a vehicle to support these assets will be important for the town.

Committee members discussed how to inform the public of the importance of protecting older homes, bridges and infrastructures. It was suggested that tables be set up at the informational meeting showing before and after pictures of these buildings/homes. Committee members felt the public needed more education on the cost to repair these infrastructures vs. the cost to rebuild, collapse or build brand new.

Committee members discussed how to show the direction of various public agencies during the informational meeting. Members agreed having booths/tables set up when people come to the informational meeting would be a good idea. Emergency Preparedness, shops/businesses, Board of Education, Board of First Selectman, Public Health, Economic Development, and other various town committees/agencies should be represented. It will be important to show the general public how these agencies work together collectively for the town.

Also in the discussion was how to get the most accurate public survey results. Committee members discussed the important of educating the public first before getting their opinions would be very important. Explaining *where we were vs where we currently are* and showing the ways to we could go as a town based on the information is the strategy. Giving the public options such as showing the New Plan vs. Old Plan will be a strategy used during the informational meeting.

Commission members discussed importance of keeping up with annual Emergency Preparedness drills and having the EOC represented at the informational meeting.

The commission discussed including information regarding resurfacing the roads and the budget for such projects at the meeting as well. Members felt it it would be a good idea to share the 5 year plan of roads and budget that Jeff Bord, Town Engineer and Lisa Pellagrinni have worked on together.

Committee members discussed the importance of educating the public on the value of open space. Getting the public involved in supporting the maintenance of the town will be important.

POCD members brainstormed on how to educate the public in order to receive an accurate, educated response. They also shared ideas of how to advertise for the meeting and get the optimal attendance/input. Index cards will be at the meeting so the those attending may write ideas for the POCD to review. Each table will be given 10-15 minutes to make their presentation to the public at the meeting.

At the next meeting the POCD plans to formalize the process, establish main points to be made at the informational meeting and plan an overview for the tables. The next regular meeting is set for Sept 13, 2012 after the Planning Commission meets.

### **III. MINUTES-JULY 12, 2012**

*A motion was made by William Salka to approve the minutes as posted. Seconded by Adam Van Wingerden, all in favor, motion carried.*

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by David Palmer to adjourn the meeting at 7:51pm. Seconded by Adam Van Wingerden, all in favor, motion carried.*