

PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

November 14, 2013

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Greg Genlot at 7:37 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

In attendance were Director of Public Works/Town Engineer, Jeff Bord, and members William Salka and Adam Van Wingerden. Also attending was town selectman Kathleen Devlin.

NEW BUSINESS

POCD Committee General Discussion

Selectman Kathleen Devlin shared her interest in bringing in a local consultant to speak to the Planning Committee and also invite the Economic Department. She met this consultant when attending a conference. This consultant surveyed West Hartford for similar purposes with good success. His interest is redesigning areas that encourage economic growth. Selectman Devlin also shared that the Department of Public Health is interested in towns that develop a more walkable community via sidewalks. She suggested accessing open space funds. The D.P.H. is also interested in finding out what plantings are allowed, given the unusual pollen count in CT. She mentioned Planning may want to, once informed; regulate plantings associated with new development. Member William Salka stated that taxes to the town went up 70% due to the state's deficit in terms of town pensions. Jeff Board mentioned the survey that polled resident's opinion on economic development to specific areas of town. Kathy Devlin also mentioned economic development is needed to get natural gas options or a micro grid. These improvements are not possible given the current limit of industry; less than 2% of Somers is commercial. The selectman and members discussed the burden on residence to face increasing taxes to make up for the state's reduced funding unless there is more development.

MINUTES APPROVAL

- Public Hearing dated October, 10, 2013
Member William Salka made a motion to approve the minutes of October 10th with the following amendment; change the spelling on the last name *Conklin*. Member Adam Van Wingerden seconded the motion as amended.
All in favor, motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Member Adam Van Wingerden made a motion, seconded by member William Salka, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

All in favor, motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Benson

Recording Secretary