

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
PLANNING COMMISSION
POCD WORKSHOP
MEETING #1**

**GROTON PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD) AND
MUNICIPAL COASTAL PROGRAM UPDATES**

JULY 8, 2014 - 5:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – 134 GROTON LONG POINT ROAD, GROTON, CT
COMMUNITY ROOM 2

Acting Chairman Pritchard called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Regular members present: Pritchard, Kane (5:38) Munn, Steinford
Alternate members present: Fitzgerald, Tarbox (6:51), Zod
Absent: Sherrard
Staff present: Jones, Glemboski, Silsby

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review of Draft Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) – Introduction and Document Format

Acting Chairman Pritchard appointed Steinford as Acting Secretary. The Commission noted that general minutes of the workshop will be taken and staff will provide the minutes and a marked up copy of the sections as they are reviewed, to the consultant. Pritchard explained that no oral comments will be accepted from the public, though written comments would be welcomed.

The format of the document was discussed in detail. Concerns were raised about the clarity and color distinctions of maps and images throughout the draft document. It was recommended that short term and long term action items be highlighted, to make them easier to see. Side bars or text boxes that summarize main points and goals should be added throughout the document, similar to the 2002 POCD. Discussion ensued about whether an executive summary should be added to the document.

Zod suggested incorporating a purpose section, adding a section outlining the use of the POCD, and making sure that the text associated with the photos is readable. Pritchard suggested placing the State and Regional Plan consistency section in an appendix and that the number of Action Agenda items be kept to a minimum. The figures in a number of tables should be current.

The “Introduction” was reviewed in detail and the following recommendations were made:

Staff noted that Nicki Bresnyan has offered to edit the final document.

- ❖ Replace the words “Street Map” with the words “Major Transportation Routes” (pg. iv). Clearly show the Noank, Groton Long Point and City of Groton jurisdiction lines.

- ❖ Identify all photos with consistent labels. Eliminate photos that are fillers. Confirm that all photos are in Groton.
- ❖ Add Planning Commission process to the introduction section.
- ❖ Consistency with plus signs or dashes throughout the entire document (ex: pg.16).
- ❖ Replace the words “Groton Historic Marker” to “Groton Bicentennial Sign” (pg. 2).
- ❖ Clarify that Mystic and Old Mystic are fire districts that straddle the Stonington/Groton line (pg. 3).
- ❖ All Pfizer discussions should reflect current activity, including building demolition and shifting employees to the Boston area.
- ❖ Replace “Bluff Point” with “Bluff Point Coastal Reserve and State Park” (pg. 3).
- ❖ Re-title chart “Public Service Responsibilities by Areas and Political Jurisdictions” (pg. 3).
- ❖ Under Public Works, add “Town & GLP” under Groton Long Point (pg. 3).
- ❖ Revise and simplify the “What is a POCD?” section. See the 2002 document.
- ❖ Confirm that pictures are located in Groton and that the text on the pictures is legible. (pg. 5). How do the plan elements relate to the POCD themes?
- ❖ Re-word, streamline, and confirm information in the History section. Include only history relevant to Groton and the POCD process. Include information about farming, stone walls, and maritime history (pgs. 9, 10, 11, & 12).
- ❖ Change employment figures for Electric Boat (EB) and Pfizer to correlate with the most current and factual figures (pg. 12).
- ❖ Re-word paragraph, include other large employers including the subbase and EB, confirm information, and include Casino impact (pg. 13).
- ❖ Re-word and condense, add recent EB and Pfizer activity (pg. 14).
- ❖ Confirm all numbers (pg. 15).
- ❖ Determine whether this page is necessary. If so, it needs to be more clearly defined, confirm all figures, check farm employment numbers. Add footnote to define government (tribal, utilities?). Why are there so few education employees? What is FIRE? What do the dashes represent – how are they different from 0? (pg. 16).
- ❖ Was the Subbase population over or under counted in the 2000 census and confirm figures (pg. 17).

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. in order to open the regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting.

The meeting re-convened at 7:45 p.m.

- ❖ Confirm all figures, confirm Open Land percentage, and fill empty cells to indicate loss in Vacant and Agriculture categories with appropriate figures (pg. 23).
- ❖ Determine if this table is necessary, confirm all information, and provide a range from the minimum to the maximum (pg. 27).
- ❖ Concerns were raised about the figure for Pfizer Taxable Assessed Value being too high. Pfizer demolition should be considered (pg. 28).
- ❖ Re-examine the factual “weight” of the survey results, due to a minimal amount of exposure. Condense findings (pg. 31).

Additional comments from Commission members should be in written form and submitted to Staff prior to the next meeting scheduled for July 22, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. was made by Steinfeld, seconded by Munn, so voted unanimously.

Margil Steinfeld, Acting Secretary
Planning Commission

Prepared by Robin Silsby
Office Assistant II