MINUTES
POCD STEERING COMMITTEE
AUGUST 15, 2013 - 6:00 P.M.
MEETING #9
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

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

I. ROLL CALL

Regular members present:	Cerf (arrived 6:13pm) Johnson (arrived 6:12pm), Pritchard, Scott, Sherrard, Smith, Sutherland
Absent:	Kane, Rafferty, Williams
Also present:	Oefinger, Jones, Clarke
Staff present:	Murphy, Silsby

Chairman Sherrard called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 20, 2013

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 20, 2013 as written.

Motion made by Scott, seconded by Sutherland, so voted unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Smith distributed an article about climate change in coastal cities. Additionally, he referred to the NOAA website about the sea level increase occurring in New London. He believes it is important to have a balanced approach and to incorporate sea level rise into plans for the future.

Jim Furlong, 57 Fishtown Lane, Mystic, referred to the new open space map. He believes that a number is needed that quantifies the amount of permanent open space in Groton. He also pointed out the need for definitions and facts in order for policies to be set.

IV. ITEM OF BUSINESS

1. Report from Steering Committee Representatives - None

2. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Mike Zuba of Milone & MacBroom gave a detailed presentation regarding Parks and Open Space. He reviewed the open space map as he referred to inventories, dedicated open space, definitions in the 2002 POCD, managed open space, and perceived open space. Specifics were also given about active and passive open space, the pedestrian network, and planned projects including facilities.

As inquiries were made about dedicated open space, discussion ensued about interpretation about dedicated versus managed open space. Some members were interested in obtaining more information about individual open space properties. Zuba will include relevant information in his upcoming memo. He will also change the blue color on the map so it is more distinct from the blue designating water. It was noted

that the Conservation Commission has created a list of properties that they consider worthy of some type of protection. They have not ranked the parcels or determined which ones should be purchases.

Staff explained that the goal of the open space component for parks and recreation is to satisfy the needs of the community in the future.

3. Economic Development

Mike Zuba introduced Michael Looney of Milone & MacBroom, who gave a detailed presentation regarding Economic Development. Looney reviewed the existing conditions and characteristics of Groton's economy. Specifics were given about the labor force, journey to work patterns, employment trends (local and regional), employers, comparing grand lists, economic development potential, and the Town's 2006 Economic Development Strategic Plan including the on-going major economic initiatives and the retail marketplace profile.

Zuba will look into equalizing the grand lists and mill rates so as to make it easier to do a comparison with other area towns.

Discussion followed about employment in the region and the lack of businesses locally. Zuba will be issuing a memo with this information prior to the next POCD meeting.

Zuba explained that a community survey has been available via the Town's website for the last two weeks. He has received over 50 respondents. This survey will soon be fully advertised.

4. September Meeting Topics

Staff stated that two positions in his department have been eliminated. As such, he will be re-accessing the workload and schedule for POCD completion in accordance with the level of staffing available.

For the next meeting, Zuba will begin talking about another community workshop being held in October 2013. Various topics, including a build-out analysis and sustainability, are expected to be included on the next agenda. Staff noted that Dave Murphy of Milone & MacBroom will be including input as well, relative to coastal management issues.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. made by Sutherland, seconded by Smith, so voted unanimously.

Jeff Pritchard, Secretary
Steering Committee

Prepared by Robin Silsby
Office Assistant II