

**PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 – 6 PM
100 BROADWAY, RM #335 - THIRD FLOOR
NORWICH, CT**

REGULAR MEETING

A. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Frank Manfredi called at the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS AND GUEST PARTICIPANTS:

Present: Committee on the City Plan: Chair Frank Manfredi, Jason Courter, Les King, Swarnjit Singh Bhatia (arrived at 6:12 PM), Norwich Public Utilities (NPU): General Manager Chris LaRose, Inland Wetlands Commission: Rick Morell, and Community Development: Kathy Crees
Others Present: City Planner Deanna Rhodes, Assistant City Planner Dan Daniska and Recording Secretary Melinda Wilson

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 8, 2019

On a motion by Les King, seconded by Chris LaRose, the commission approved the minutes of the Norwich Plan of Conservation and Development: Plan Implementation Committee (POCD PIC) meeting of May 8, 2019. Abstentions were made by Kathy Crees, Jason Courter and Frank Manfredi due to non-attendance.

D. OLD BUSINESS: None presented.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review & Discuss:

Chapter entitled "Promote Livability"

- Section entitled "Provide for Community Facilities" –Pages 13-15 of Implementation Element & Pages 42-43 of Strategic Element
 - Subsection – "Maintain Adequate Community Facilities"
 - A.1. Kathy Crees reported that Norwich's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for 2018 was allocated for handicapped accessibility and sidewalks in Greeneville. Next year funding will support the Taftville Basketball courts and gazebo. The funding has made investments in Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps city-wide and the Greeneville Park near the old school.
 - A.2. City Planner Deanna Rhodes noted the Board of Education has a draft plan plan regarding consolidation of elementary schools and potential sale of some of the unused schools.
 - A.3. Ms. Rhodes would like to follow-up with the city committees that are working on school consolidation.
 - A.4. Ms. Crees noted that the city took over some accounting and finance work for the schools. Both city divisions now use the Munis software system for administrative functions. Ms. Rhodes reported on the Department of Public Works' (DPW) Property Disposition Committee.

- Subsection – “Implement New Service Technologies”
 - B.1. Assistant City Planner Dan Daniska reported that there are now updated map layers on City’s Web GIS. Jason Courter recommended adding a map layer for recreation and points of interest. Ms. Rhodes agreed that it would be great to add this as a goal of the next POCD. Updating the GIS with layers of community interest would be helpful. She noted they are using GIS to identify brownfields as determined by the state.
 - B.2. NPU General Manager Chris LaRose spoke to having an active GIS department. His team offers base maps to any city agency. Some take more advantage than others. The fire departments have been using the maps in planning. They have had a real technology push with maps so they can better plan at fires. They are an example of a forward-looking group taking advantage of the city’s technological assets. The police department could also take advantage of it, for example to map crime throughout the city’s neighborhoods. NPU will continue to promote the GIS capabilities. Ms. Rhodes asked if there was any way the Building Department could use GIS to schedule inspections. Mr. LaRose said they do have vehicle locators, but NPU did not find that it was useful to schedule work orders through GIS. NPU uses this feature to locate vehicles in an emergency response situation.

- Subsection – “Encourage and Support Other Facilities”
 - C.1. Ms. Rhodes reported that she and her staff are working with the New Capacities Program, partnering with the Southeastern Connecticut United Way, to introduce students to manufacturing careers. Norwich Free Academy (NFA) is participating. They are also supporting additional pipelines, such as industrial training, registered nursing and certified nurses’ aide programs. NFA sends students to Three Rivers Community College (TRCC) to take classes. She suggested that the next POCD have an element for growing more advanced programs and support TRCC to get those programs up and running.
 - C.2. Ms. Rhodes noted the city’s support for healthcare providers, especially the non-profits in the city. She recommended that the next POCD explain these relationship and what ways they can be supported.
 - C.3. Ms. Rhodes referred to the activities of the Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition. She noted that the Norwich Arts Council (NAC) is looking for additional leadership. The Global Cities Initiative, funded by Chelsea Groton Bank, always has something going on in the city.
 - C.4. Ms. Crees reported that CDBG funds many organizations, including public service, employment and TVCCA’s partnership with Norwich Human Services working on rapid rehousing. CDBG also funds the Norwich Housing Authority’s Elderly Housing Program, a property rehabilitation program for low-moderate income residents and a lead remediation program. Ms. Rhodes reminded the committee about the Greenville Dam Trail grant application. Unfortunately, the City was not awarded the grant. She suggested that NPU and DPW could coordinate on the trail. Mr. LaRose noted that NPU has equipment for the trail. He requested a copy of the trail plan. Ms. Rhodes agreed to send it to him.

Ms. Rhodes reported to the committee on her department's efforts in regard to the CRS program for FEMA. The City partnered with the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) to hire a consultant to correct issues in the city and achieve program compliance in relation to residents' flood insurance. The inspection was performed last week and she was told that the city did very well. Once the results of the inspection are in, a rating level will be applied to the city. This rating will allow residents to get a percentage off their flood insurance annually. The city will keep records and report to FEMA annually to maintain the designation.

- Next Steps and Accountability for Section - "Provide for Community Facilities"
 - Deanna asked committee to spend some time thinking about this issue prior to the next meeting.

2. Reports from Committee Members and Guests

Rick Morell asked Mr. LaRose about the eagles behind Dairy Queen. There was a successful eagle hatch. He suggested that a webcam would be great for public interest. Mr. LaRose asked that Mr. Morell send him the location and he will see if a pole in the area can be connected to the fiber network. Mr. Morell agreed and thanked Mr. LaRose.

F: OTHER ITEMS

1. Meeting Reminder for November 13, 2019: Prepare to Review & Discuss Chapter Entitled "Promote Livability" – Section entitled "Enhance Open Space/Greenways" Pages 16 & 17 of Implementation Element & Pages 44 & 45 of Strategic Element:.

Ms. Rhodes noted the importance of a round table of diverse attendance at these meetings.

2. Other: None presented.

G. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Les King, seconded by Rick Morell, the POCD PIC meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Wilson
Recording Secretary*