

Town Planner's Report 4/15/2015 – 5/12/2015

Ongoing work:

- **Quinebaug Regional Technology Park (QRTP) & YMCA:**
 - Met twice with the Town Administrator and representatives of the project's engineering team, on 4/27 and 5/11, Re: progress on sewer, water, natural gas, electricity, and bridge and roadway construction to and within the Park, Phase 1, and associated construction relative to the YMCA.
 - Researched site plans for the sewer treatment plant for information relative to the on-site archaeological study.

- **Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) 2015 Update:**
 - Continued background research and updates, in text preparation for plan update, including sections on demographics, housing and economic and community development.
 - Working towards the development of goals and objectives, and action steps to fulfill the goals and objectives, for demographics and housing, historical/cultural issues, land use, public facilities/services, transportation, and economic and community development sections of the Plan, which will be used in the implementation tables.
 - Continued mapping projects for the Plan, which will be finalized upon obtaining necessary GIS software.
 - Met with the DPW Director relative to signage and bridge construction for the transportation section of the Plan, and to additional GIS software needed to create maps for the Plan.
 - Met with the Town Administrator relative to available social services and social service agencies referenced in the Plan.
 - Met with the POCD Update Committee Chairman, and Vice Chairman, to discuss the final format of the 2015 POCD, including the formation of goals and objectives and action steps as noted above, in preparation for meetings of the POCD Update Committee meeting on the evenings of April 21 and May 11. Attended both meetings. At the April 21 meeting the President of the Arts Council was present, discussing the Council's activities in relation to Planning. Also at the April 21 meeting a revised draft of the Economic Development chapter, and a revised first draft of the entire document as first prepared in November and revised as noted above were topics of discussion, beginning with economic development (Chapter 8) where discussion left off at the December 8 meeting. Discussion at the May 11 meeting was on prepared draft goals, objectives and action statements to implement the demographics and housing sections, on the preparation of goals and objectives statements for the land use and public facilities/services sections, and on tools for the implementation of the economic development section, of the Plan.
 - Continuing to compile all of the updates, materials, information and items discussed at the thirteen POCD Update Committee meetings held to date, in preparation for the continuing discussion on the goals, objectives and policies, and action items for the 2015 POCD at the next meeting of the POCD Update Committee on June 8, 2015.

Other Projects/Tasks:

- Met with the DPW Director relative to the purchase of the equipment and contracting of installation for the double electric vehicle (EV) charging station within the municipal parking lot (for which we received the DEEP Grant Award Notice on December 23). Initiated the purchasing process for the equipment.
- Attended a meeting with the contractor for the Town's new phone system to discuss options for the development of the system.
- Attended a training session on the new Town website, given by the website developer. Also discussed the development of the Town Planner reference in the creation of Planning and Land Use pages with the website developer.
- Attended the Zoning Commission meeting on 4/15.
- Attended an informational meeting on the state's proposed revisions to MS4 regulations, at the NECCOG office, on 4/21.
- Attended the hearing on the FY 2015/2016 Budget on 4/22.
- Attended the Facilities Study Committee meeting on 4/23.
- Met with the DPW Director to discuss the modified draft of proposed updates to the Subdivision Regulations, prepared after several Planning Commission workshops, relative to public water and sewer. Attended the Planning Commission's 4/27 meeting at which a work session on the updated Subdivision Regulations was held. Items discussed included recommended revised text sections referenced at previous work sessions, and revisions suggested by the Regional Engineer (NECCOG) and by staff, relative to updated roadway and utility construction standards and greater compliance with the recently passed Comprehensive Amendment/Restatement of the Zoning Regulations. A work session on the updated Subdivision Regulations is expected at the Planning Commission's 5/26 meeting, which would be centered on the water and sewer sections, after further discussions with the DPW Director and the Regional Engineer on these items. Upon preparation of the final draft of updates to the Subdivision Regulations, a hearing will be held to allow the Commission to present and vote on these updates, tentatively during the summer of 2015.
- Attended the Putnam Redevelopment Authority / Economic Development Commission meeting on 5/12.
- At the request of the Town Administrator, met twice with the DEEP and USDA's appointed representative of Connecticut's Microgrid program, relative to the establishment of a system of microgrids for the Town. The Police Station and the DPW Highway Garage were assessed for electrical needs in the event of establishment of microgrids and/or potential energy conservation measures.
- At the request of the Town Administrator, continuing to follow development of state water plans.
- Spoke with a developer relative to his proposed use or abandonment of Old Road, an unused road off of Park Road, who attended the Planning Commission meeting on 4/27 to request that the Commission not act on the abandonment until he further researches his options.
- Attended a workshop on the redevelopment and reuse of brownfields entitled *Where There's a Mill... There's a Way!*, on 5/8.