

# Town Planner's Report 7/8/2015 – 8/11/2015

## Ongoing work:

- **Quinebaug Regional Technology Park (QRTP) & YMCA:**
  - (No substantial Town Planner activity on this project since the last reporting period. Continuing to monitor ongoing construction activity and progress reports.)
  
- **Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) 2015 Update:**
  - Continuing background research and updates, in text preparation for plan update, including sections on physical characteristics and natural resources, historical/cultural resources, land use, public facilities/services, transportation, and economic and community development sections.
  - Have developed draft goals and objectives statements, and action steps statements to fulfill the goals and objectives, for physical characteristics and natural resources section of the Plan. Developing draft goals and objectives statements, and action steps statements to fulfill the goals and objectives, for 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. In this regard, have continued to address the recent passage of Public Act No. 15-95, which amends the statutes to require that the POCD shall identify the general location and extent of any (1) areas served by existing sewerage systems, (2) areas where sewerage systems are planned, and (3) areas where sewers are to be avoided, by working with the Town's GIS consultant and the Town Administrator on the consultant's creation of a mapping datalayer for this new requirement. Met with the consultant on July 23. A draft of the map showing this datalayer has been received.
  - Met with the POCD Update Committee at its meeting on July 20. Discussion was on the final format of the 2015 POCD, including the formation of goals and objectives and action steps as noted above, mapping, and the scheduling of future meetings in anticipation of the receipt of additional GIS software and datalayers needed to create maps (the next logical step) for the Plan over the next few months. Discussion at the meeting was also on prepared draft goals, objectives and action statements to implement the historical/cultural resources section of the Plan (prepared in conjunction with the Town Historian), and on preparation of draft goals, objectives and action statements to implement the land use, transportation, and economic and community development sections of the Plan. (It was noted at the meeting that, at the time, the Plan's section on public facilities/services was temporarily on hold pending further information on the ability of the Town to use property on Sabin Street for active recreation, and on the sewer system plan as referenced above.)
  - Presently working with the Economic and Community Development Director on final wording of parts of the land use and economic development sections of the Plan.

- At the behest of members of the POCD Update Committee, presently adding a subsection on Complete Streets to the transportation section of the Plan, and, upon further consideration of issues, adding draft goals and objectives statements, and action steps, to the physical characteristics and natural resources section of the Plan, as noted above. Also adding subsection on the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) standards, and on Placemaking, to the land use section.
- Continuing to compile all of the updates, materials, information and items discussed at the fourteen POCD Update Committee meetings held to date, and mapping and additional information referenced above, in preparation of a completed draft of the Plan, tentatively over the next few months. This completed draft, which would be based on continuing discussion on the goals, objectives and policies, action items, and mapping, will be prepared for the hearing on the POCD that is mandated before its final approval is granted by the Planning Commission. The next meeting of the POCD Update Committee is tentatively scheduled for September 14, 2015.

## **Other Projects/Tasks:**

- Attended the Planning Commission's July 27 meeting, at which the completed draft of updates to the Subdivision Regulations that has been prepared by the Regional Engineer (NECCOG) and the Town Planner was reviewed. After a final review by Town Counsel of the proposed updates, a hearing will be held to allow the Commission to present and vote on these updates, likely in October 2015.
- Attended the Town's workshop on Redevelopment of Mill Buildings (focused on the Belding Mill) on July 27.
- Provided requested information to the Economic and Community Development Director relative to the Design Guidelines and Standards for the Greater Downtown Area project.
- Viewed the American Planning Association's webinar entitled "*Reed v. Town of Gilbert: The Supreme Court's New Rules for Temporary -- and other -- Signs*", on July 30.
- Attended the Putnam Redevelopment Authority / Economic Development Commission meeting on August 11.
- At the request of the Town Administrator, continuing to follow development of state water plans.