

October 2, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: 2017 Westport Plan of Conservation and Development**

This is to certify that at a meeting of the Westport Planning and Zoning Commission held on September 28, 2017 it was moved by Mr. Stephens and seconded by Mr. Gratrix to adopt the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL FOR THE  
2017 WESTPORT PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION met on September 28, 2017 and made the following findings:

1. The Planning and Zoning Commission recognizes the significance for the Town of Westport to evaluate the conditions and trends affecting the community and make informed decisions about how it should approach the future in order to:
  - A. Protect things that are important to the community, and
  - B. Attain those things that will enhance the overall health and well-being of the community and the quality of life of its residents.
2. Since Westport's current Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) was adopted in 2007, much has changed. Therefore, it is appropriate that Westport review the policies in the current POCD to ensure those policies are appropriate for the future.
3. The goals and recommendations of the POCD are intended to reflect an overall consensus of what is considered desirable for Westport and its residents in the future.
4. §8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires the Planning and Zoning Commission prepare, adopt and amend a POCD for the municipality, and requires the Commission review the plan at least once every ten years, and update the plan as it deems necessary.
5. In 2016, the Planning and Zoning Commission commenced preparing an update of the 2007 POCD to serve as a guide for future planning efforts for the next ten years.

6. Both elected members, as well as alternates (selected by the Commission) to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission from 2016 to date, actively participated throughout the planning process contributing their time and expertise in developing a plan for the Town of Westport.
7. The Planning and Zoning Commission interviewed three (3) professional planning firms before selecting Planimetrics as their planning consultant to assist in preparing the POCD.
8. The Planning and Zoning Commission gathered information from Town Staff, Boards and Commissions through the course of interviews and meetings.
9. Two community on-line surveys were conducted in January and February with over several hundred residents participating. These surveys were publicized using the Town of Westport's website, Twitter account, and Facebook account. Hard copies of the survey were additionally made available at locations convenient to the public.
10. The Planning and Zoning Commission conducted public meetings to discuss the elements to be included in the plan. The dates of these meetings were January 12, 2017 and June 8, 2017. The Commission also held work sessions on a monthly basis that were open to the public to incorporate feedback received from the public.
11. The Planning and Zoning Commission additionally reviewed responses received from public surveys and public charrettes over the past ten years associated with other planning initiatives including the two most recent planning efforts initiated by the First Selectman's Office: The Downtown Master Plan, and The Saugatuck Transit Oriented Design Master Plan.
12. Five (5) drafts of the Plan of Conservation and Development, prepared on behalf of the Planning and Zoning Commission by their consultant, were reviewed over the past year.
13. Copies of the draft plans were made available for public inspection at Town Hall and electronically on the Town's website throughout the process.
14. A third and final public hearing on the Plan of Conservation and Development was held by the Planning and Zoning Commission on September 14, 2017 when additional public testimony was received.
15. Pursuant to §8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes a referral of the draft POCD was sent to Western CT Council of Governments (WestCOG), the Connecticut Metropolitan Council of Governments (MetroCOG), the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and the Board of Selectman (BOS). All comments submitted by these boards and agencies were considered by the Commission in its final review.
16. The Plan of Conservation and Development advocates the general goals and policies set forth in §22a-92 (Coastal Management Act) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

17. The Plan takes into account the State Plan of Conservation and Development and there are no inconsistencies with the State Plan to note.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the 2017 Plan of Conservation and Development is hereby **ADOPTED** with modifications and for the following reasons:

**MODIFICATIONS**

1. Provided the consultant incorporates into the final document the feedback received and direction provided by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their final Work Session held on September 28, 2017.

**REASONS**

1. §8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires the Planning and Zoning Commission to adopt, and amend or update a Plan of Conservation and Development for the municipality.
2. The 2017 Plan of Conservation and Development establishes goals, policies, and an implementation plan for achieving the goals over the next ten years.
3. The plan will provide a guide to local boards and commissions and will provide a framework for consistent decision-making with regard to conservation and development activities in Westport over the next decade.

**VOTE:**

AYES	-5-	{Walsh, Stephens, Gratrix, Dobin, Cammeyer}
NAYS	-0-	
ABSTENTIONS	-0-	

**The effective date of the Plan of Conservation and Development is October 22, 2017.**

Very truly yours,

Catherine Walsh  
Chairman, Planning & Zoning Commission

cc: Jim Marpe, First Selectman  
Ira Bloom, Town Attorney  
Patricia Strauss, Town Clerk  
Executive Director, (WestCOG)  
Executive Director, (MetroCOG)  
RTM P&Z Committee Chairman  
RTM Moderator  
Mary-beth Hart, CT DEEP