

**GLASTONBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
(INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY)
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**

The Glastonbury Conservation Commission (Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency), along with Mr. Tom Mocko, Environmental Planner, in attendance held a Special Meeting in Council Chambers, second floor of Town Hall located at 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, Connecticut.

ROLL CALL

Commission Members - Present

Mrs. Judy Harper, Chairman
Mr. Dennis McInerney, Vice Chairman
Mrs. Kim McClain, Secretary
Mr. Frank Kaputa
Mrs. Helen Stern

Commission Members - Excused

Mr. Brian Davis
Mr. Mark Temple

Chairman Harper called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Plan of Conservation & Development Discussion

Secretary McClain thanked the citizens in the audience for attending this special meeting and provided an update on the status of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). She explained that the Conservation Commission (CC) has historically provided input on updates to the POCD. They began their work as a group on the 2018 draft in June 2016, and a CC subcommittee was assembled to work on sustainability language and other edits. Secretary McClain noted that the CC learned that their initial recommendations regarding sustainability, resilience and climate change were rejected, and, subsequently, Mr. Mocko's modified version of their proposed language was also rejected.

Secretary McClain stated that over 98% of scientists are in agreement that climate change is real and that humans have a direct impact on the changing climate, therefore it seems imperative to include a component addressing this issue in the updated POCD. Since one of Glastonbury's borders is the Connecticut River and there are many small rivers and tributaries running throughout their town, failure to include climate change considerations in this important document will be detrimental. Secretary McClain noted that the Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) created a regional POCD including a full 9 pages on climate change and resilience. In addition, 7 of 8 towns contiguous to Glastonbury already include language regarding sustainability and resilience in their POCDs, and Marlborough is expected to include similar language in their own 2019 POCD update. Secretary McClain commented that it seems unimaginable to her that Glastonbury would be an outlier in terms of having a deficit in this area, especially since the Town has demonstrated strong leadership in a variety of planning and conservation efforts over the years. She feels that the Town Plan and Zoning Commission (TPZ) should amend the currently submitted POCD to address these concerns, and she believes that the Town Council (TC) may endorse the CC's suggested amendments.

Chairman Harper called for public comment.

Kristine Vitelli, 9 Martin Terrace, submitted a document that she and several members of the community worked on, and she asked the commissioners to take it into consideration as they finalize their amendments for the TC and TPZ. She stated that their group is very concerned about Glastonbury not demonstrating leadership in this area, especially since their town is part of Sustainable CT. Ms. Vitelli then reviewed her group's proposed sustainability, resilience and climate change language and definitions.

Jennifer Siskind, 101 Fairview Terrace, spoke about her experience at the most recent TPZ meeting regarding the draft POCD and noted that she attended a follow-up subcommittee meeting last week. She stated that she and many other citizens support the CC and feel strongly that wording on climate change and sustainability needs to be included in the soon-to-be adopted POCD. Ms. Siskind suggested that it would be helpful for the commissioners to attend the upcoming TPZ and TC public hearings on this matter.

Dave Ahlgren, former president of the Land Heritage Coalition of Glastonbury, Inc., said he fully supports the CC's proposed POCD recommendation and said he would be happy to help in any way he can.

Mary Ahlgren, 229 Olde Stage Road, indicated her support for the CC on this issue and said she feels that the proposed section is well-worded.

The commissioners discussed the testimony provided at tonight's meeting and unanimously agreed on the language for the sustainability section, with the exception of the definition for sustainability which they agreed to discuss/finalize at their regular meeting scheduled for next week.

Motion By: Secretary McClain

Seconded: Commissioner Kaputa

MOVED, that the Conservation Commission approves language for the new sustainability section of the Plan and Conservation and Development, and recommends to the Town Council and Town Plan and Zoning Commission that the proposed amendments be included in the document to be submitted to the Capital Region Council of Governments for final approval.

Result: Motion passes unanimously. (5-0-0)

With no other business to discuss, Chairman Harper adjourned the meeting at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy M. Pallotti
Amy M. Pallotti
Recording Secretary