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PLANNING PRIMER



Introduction To Planning

What Is Planning?

Webster's Dictionary defines 'planning' as:

- to draw up a plan of,
- to have in mind, or
- to formulate a way to achieve or do.

'Planning' is a continuous, iterative process to keep a community appropriately matched to its conditions, trends, and goals. It is a process for making informed decisions about the community's future.

Why and When Should We Plan?

People "plan" every day - a route to work, shopping needs, social gatherings, financial needs. We make plans without thinking about it.

Planning allows us to:

- focus on the 'bigger picture,'
- identify significant goals,
- coordinate efforts, and
- achieve efficiency and economy in implementation.

Planning helps people and communities make informed decisions and work toward desired goals. Planning is not a new concept in Trumbull. The Town has undertaken a number of planning initiatives and adopted previous Plans of Conservation and Development (POCDs).

Trumbull is updating its Plan of Conservation and Development.

The Plan will identify strategies to:

- *preserve important resources,*
- *guide future development,*
- *enhance community character, and*
- *promote quality of life for residents.*

On Plans and Planning

"If you don't know where you are going, you'll wind up somewhere else."

Yogi Berra,
Baseball Legend
Renowned Punster

"Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success."

Pablo Picasso
Artist

About Plans of Conservation & Development

A Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is a tool to guide a community's future. Its purpose is to establish a common vision and determine strategies to attain that vision. The goals and recommendations of the Plan are intended to reflect what Trumbull residents feel is desirable for the community in the future.

A Plan of Conservation and Development becomes an official document after a public hearing and adoption by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Once adopted, the Plan is used to:

- coordinate development of the municipality,
- guide land use decisions and regulations, and
- provide programs for implementation.

A Plan of Conservation and Development is primarily an advisory document. It is intended to guide local officials and provide a framework for consistent decision-making with regard to conservation and development activities in the Town of Trumbull over the next decade.

The Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) outline procedures for adopting a Plan and what must be included in a Plan (see summary on p. 3).

How Will The Plan Be Formulated?

The Town's current Plan of Conservation and Development was adopted in 2006. Updating the Plan will involve an intensive process. The Planning and Zoning Commission will seek input from residents, Town officials, staff, and others and then determine appropriate updates to the Plan over a series of working meetings.

Interested persons may attend working meetings to listen to discussions. Residents and officials are encouraged to review draft documents as they become available and to submit their thoughts and comments to the Planning and Zoning Commission. When a draft of the proposed Plan is developed, it will be made available for public review and a public information workshop will be held to collect feedback.

Where Can Residents Find Information?

A project website will be established by the end of July – www.Plan-Trumbull.com. The website will provide project updates and make project documents readily available.

The 2006 Plan can be accessed on the Town's website at: <http://www.trumbull-ct.gov/content/10623/10655/11009/default.aspx> (Departments / Planning and Zoning).

Public workshops will be announced on the town's website, the project website and in local print and on-line newspapers.

Excerpts: CGS 8-23 – Plans of Conservation and Development

The Commission shall:

- prepare, adopt and amend a plan of conservation and development
- review the plan of conservation and development at least once every ten years

The Commission may:

- adopt such geographical, functional or other amendments to the plan or parts of the plan
- prepare, amend and adopt plans for the redevelopment and improvement of districts or neighborhoods which contain special problems or opportunities

The Plan shall:

- be a statement of policies, goals and standards for the physical and economic development of the municipality
- provide for a system of principal thoroughfares, sidewalks, multipurpose trails
- be designed to promote the coordinated development of the municipality; to have compact, transit accessible, pedestrian-oriented mixed use development patterns and land reuse; recommend the most desirable use of land for residential, recreational, commercial, industrial, conservation and other purposes; include a map showing such proposed land uses
- recommend the most desirable density of population
- note inconsistencies with the following growth management principles:
 - redevelopment and revitalization of commercial centers
 - expansion of housing opportunities and design choices
 - concentration of development around transportation nodes
 - conservation and restoration of the natural environment, cultural and historical resources and existing farmland
 - protection of environmental assets critical to public health and safety
 - integration of planning across all levels of government
- make provision for the development of housing opportunities and promote housing choice and economic diversity in housing
- consider:
 - the need for affordable housing
 - the need for protection of existing and potential drinking water supplies
 - the use of cluster development and other development
 - the state plan of conservation and development
 - the regional plan of development
 - physical, social, economic and governmental conditions and trends
 - the needs of the municipality including the objectives of energy-efficient patterns of development
 - protection and preservation of agriculture.

The Plan may:

- show the commission's recommendation for
 - conservation and preservation of traprock and other ridgelines
 - airports, parks, playgrounds and other public grounds
 - the general location, relocation and improvement of schools
 - the general location and extent of public utilities for water, sewerage, light, power, transit and other purposes
 - the extent and location of public housing projects
 - programs for the implementation of the plan
 - proposed priority funding areas