



The Planning Commission

Town of New Fairfield

New Fairfield, Connecticut 06812

MINUTES

Public Workshop

New Fairfield Plan of Conservation and Development Update

Saturday, October 5, 2013

Community Room at 33 Route 37

- Commissioners Present:** Ms. Cynthia Ross-Zweig, Chair
Ms. Lisa Deldin, Vice Chair
Mr. Paul Bruno
Mr. Peter Greco
- Commissioners Absent:** Ms. Robert Murtha
- Alternates Present:** Ms. Kirsten Bennett-O'Rourke
- Alternates Absent:** None
- Guests Present:** Mr. Michael Looney, Milone and MacBroom
Ms. Carly Myers, Milone and MacBroom
Approximately 30 members of the public
- Town Officials Present:** First Selectman Susan Chapman

Call to Order: Consultant Mike Looney from the firm of Milone and MacBroom welcomed everyone to the Public Workshop and gave an outline of the agenda. Approximately 30 members of the public were in attendance. The purpose of this workshop was to get feedback from the community regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development. An online survey is also available so that members of the community can also give feedback. Another Public Workshop will be planned by the consultants hopefully sometime in December. Hard copies of the surveys are also available.

Mr. Looney explained the purpose and uses for the Plan of Conservation and Development and noted that this is done by the town every ten years. The last time that New Fairfield prepared a Plan of Conservation and Development was in 2003. The POCD shows goals and objections for the town and is used by the town for Planning, Zoning and Conservation decisions. It is hopeful that this plan will be completed in the spring of 2014. A power point presentation was shown with information and findings specific to New Fairfield. It was noted in the presentation that the median age for New Fairfield has increased since 2003 to 42.2. It was noted that New Fairfield has a relatively small decline in population since 2003 and some members of the public asked question of Mr. Looney as to his opinion as to why this happened. New Fairfield has a healthy economy with 192 businesses with the bulk of the revenue derived from property tax revenue.

Mr. Looney spoke of sustainability of the town and noted that it includes policies regarding promoting building in existing development and issues such as recycling. Mr. Looney spoke of the increase in median age and how this will affect planning for schools and the possible need for elderly housing. There was a discussion about Open Space and opportunities for expansion. Traffic patterns, conditions of public buildings and a Capital Improvement Plan for 2013-2023 were also discussed.

There was a refreshment break at 10:51am.

After the break, members of the public broke into groups and discussed the following topics: Demographics/Housing, Community Facilities, Natural Resources and Economic Development.

Chairman Cynthia Ross-Zweig thanked the consultants from Milone and MacBroom as well as the members of the public that attended.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07pm.