

**MINUTES OF WORKSHOP MEETING
HELD BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
December 9, 2013**

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Eric Prause, Chair
Andy Kidd, Vice Chair
Horace Brown, Secretary
Michael Stebe
Donald Palmer

Alternates: Julian Stoppelman (sitting)
Susan Shanbaum

Absent: Chirag Thaker

Also Present: Mark Pellegrini, Director of Planning
Kyle Shiel, Senior Planner

Time Convened: 7:00 P.M

The workshop led an effort to develop a process to identify and implement the goals in the town's recently adopted Plan of Conservation and Development, Manchester 2020.

The primary purposes of the meeting were to identify three major goals from 14 outlined in Manchester 2020 to prioritize, and, once those three were selected, identify the potential stakeholders that may be interested in helping implement those goals.

The meeting began with a discussion about the criteria for selecting the priorities and the most effective approach for outreach to involve other stakeholders. There was a sense among most PZC members that many of the goals and the potential stakeholders overlapped. Mr. Prause and Mr. Stebe felt that overlapping goals were not necessarily detrimental for the POCD. Mr. Brown felt engaging potential stakeholders in a collaborative fashion is the most effective approach. Ultimately, the overlapping goals and stakeholders were not seen as a major obstacle. PZC members agreed that the PZC should be flexible in its approach as the process evolves.

PZC members reviewed the 14 major goals from Manchester 2020. Members were asked to choose the top three goals they as individuals believed deserve the highest prioritization for implementation. The goals receiving the most votes were investing in attracting and expanding desirable industries; redeveloping and investing in existing and potential corridors and activity nodes; and creating an arts and cultural district.

Once the goals were identified, PZC member identified which stakeholders might be appropriate to include in future implementation efforts. These were initial thoughts and teams can be amended in the future. For each respective goal, the following stakeholders were identified:

Invest in attracting and expanding desirable industries

- Economic Development Commission
- Workforce Development
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Redevelopment Agency
- Town's legislative delegation
- Carl Zinsser
- Tom Tomko
- Manchester Community College
- MetroHartford Alliance
- Downtown Special Services District
- Barbara Weinberg

Redevelop and invest in existing and potential corridors and activity nodes

- Planning & Zoning Commission
- Housing Commission
- Redevelopment Agency
- Economic Development Commission
- Town Engineering/Traffic
- DPW – Mark Carlino
- Building Dept.
- Fire Dept.
- Capital Region Council of Governments
- Great Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown SSD
- CT Transit

Create an Arts & Culture District

- Downtown SSD
- Imagine Main St.
- Manchester Garden Club
- Manchester Arts Association
- Manchester Community College
- Hans Weiss
- Tom Defenbaugh
- Manchester Historical Society
- Cheney Commission
- Lutz Museum
- Manchester Library Board
- Manchester Symphony Orchestra & Chorale
- LTM/Cheney Hall
- C.A.S.T.
- Beller's Music

Mr. Prause noted that conservation goals were not among the top three goals selected, but recalled that the PZC wanted to include at least one conservation goal in the priority group. PZC members suggested selecting from among four conservation goals from the 2020 Plan:

- Preserve natural resources such as forests, watersheds, habitats and adjacent land.
- Preserve and promote agriculture as a desired land use.
- Maintain existing open space
- Green the urban landscape and existing neighborhoods.

As a first step, planning staff will present these goals to the Conservation Commission to gauge their level of interest, and follow up with other groups such as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and the Manchester Land Conservation Trust.

Planning department staff begin outreach to potential stakeholders to gauge their interest in helping implement the selected goals. Those interested and able will be invited to a future meeting where stakeholders will discuss more detailed, specific actions and strategies for implementing the goals.