



**PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2018-6:00 P.M.  
100 BROADWAY, NORWICH CONNECTICUT  
RM #335-THIRD FLOOR**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:**

Art Sharron, CCP Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M. He asked everyone to introduce themselves and from what committee or department they are representing.

**B. INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS AND GUEST PARTICIPANTS:**

Also present were Les King, CCP member, Richard Morell, Chairman of IWWCC; Douglas Lee, Vice-Chairman of IWWCC; Bob Mills, President of NDC; Abby Dolliver, Superintendent of Norwich Public Schools, Regan Miner, Historic District Commission, Bill Champagne, Norwich Historic Society, H Tucker Braddock, Harbor Management Chairman, Samuel Browning, City Council member, Deanna Rhodes, City Planner; and Debra Delaporta, recording secretary.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Meeting

Motion was made by H Tucker Braddock to approve the minutes from the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 regular meeting, seconded by Richard Morell. Motion carried unanimously.

**D. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**E. NEW BUSINESS:**

Deanna Rhodes made the suggestion that a facilitator and time keeper be appointed to keep the meetings organized and about an hour long. It was decided by the Committee that Art Sharron remain the facilitator and Deanna agreed to be the time keeper. Abby Dolliver questioned whether or not she was a member of the Committee, and a recommendation was made by H Tucker Braddock, seconded by Bob Mills to add her to the Committee as a member, with all member in favor. Ms. Rhodes said she would look into adding her through the City Council.

To keep the meetings more organized, Deanna suggested meeting topics go in order of the 2013 Plan of Conservation and Development which all members agreed with. Art Sharron introduced the first Chapter entitled "Grow Strategically", and a discussion among the members ensued. Bob Mills stated he had received a copy of an email from Angela Adams, of the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce, concerning adding the Chamber as a partner instead of a leader, but Deanna Rhodes stated that would mean changing the Plan through the Council, which was a difficult process. Mr. Sharron stated he felt if anyone or any committee involved in the plan wanted to either step up or step back, that it would be acceptable to do so. It was decided Ms. Adams email would be addressed in a future meeting when the email related to the chapter being discussed.

Samuel Browning stated most of the information the City Council discussed so far centered around the Reid and Hughes Building. Bob Mills stated in the Council's goal setting meetings, some of what is being discussed would be long term goals of the Council in implementing this Plan. Regan Miner discussed working on establishing village districts to help preserve historic neighborhoods in town. Mr. Braddock asked if all the current neighborhoods in Norwich have been identified, and also asked if Chestnut Street could become part of the Chelsea Central Zone. Ms. Miner explained she was using the National Register

Historic District as a model for creating the village districts, and expansion of some of the existing zones was possible. Deanna explained the goal of the Plan is to create unique areas or nodes within the City, recognizing the mill areas, Native American areas, and work areas, to name a few. Bill Champagne stated the village districts would be overlays on top of the existing districts.

The Committee members also discussed areas in the past have been defined by schools, churches, people architecture and landscaping. Les King said Norwich is very unique in the fact that there are five separate commercial areas, and that there is value to each separate place which we should market. Bob Mills and H Tucker Braddock also discussed different marketing strategies unique to these areas. Art Sharron said the developer of Ponemah Mills intended to create pedestrian traffic as opposed to vehicular traffic when he presented his plan to the Commission on the City Plan several years ago. Mr. Mills explained that while downtown has been the focus of recent development, other areas of town, including possibly relocating Starrwood Market on Norwich Avenue to a new building and the construction of a new Cumberland Farms with car charging stations and a Liquor Store on North Main Street are potential projects coming up in the near future for economic development. Mr. King explained due to improvements in the Ponemah Mills area, CBDG funds are no longer eligible for that census tract for sidewalks, lights and security cameras.

Bob Mills said three things to keep in mind going forward were items already accomplished, items behind on accomplishing, and items which needed assistance from other departments, Commissions or groups. Rich Morell stated map work was being done of areas of rivers and public access for portions of the reservoirs to be used for fishing and bird watching, and that there was a nesting pair of bald eagles now in Norwich which could draw public interest. Deanna said she is currently working on mapping with NPU for open space and areas of interest for the public. Samuel Browning suggested the use of drone footage to showcase areas of Norwich for advertisements. Mr. Mills there are two more videos which are under contract to do that, and Mr. Braddock suggested notifying the local newspapers with positive stories for them to report.

Regan Miner told the Committee she had submitted the "Preserve America" application, and if approved would be an honorary designation which would be more helpful in obtaining grant funding for historic preservation projects in the future. Ms. Miner stated Bob Mills was helping to put up signs on RT 395 to promote cultural assets in town. Mr. Mills said marketing funds were hard to come by, and both the Mayor's budget and meetings with Maria Miranda to talk about marketing strategies. Abby Dolliver explained the Mayor is establishing a Committee to review school facilities and what will be happening in the future. Bill Champagne stated he and Regan Miner made a presentation to the City Council last month bringing them up to date on what the Historical Society and other Heritage groups are doing in the area. He said he was encouraged by all of the nature, cultural and heritage things in Norwich being discussed in the meeting and that branding was important to market Norwich to showcase these things.

**F. OTHER ITEMS:** Art Sharron reminded the Committee members of the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 meeting and the Chapter "Grow Strategically" and Section entitled "Promote Economic Development" would be the topics of discussion to prepare for.

**G. ADJOURNMENT:**

Les King made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by H Tucker Braddock. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Delaporta