

3. Public Participation

04/04/12

Planning Workshop with NS High School Civics Class with Jason Vincent of Planimetrics.

04/28/12

Housing and Economic Development Planning Workshop.

06/21/12

Joint meeting all boards and commissions to discuss possible sewers in North Stonington

10/17/12-11/17/12

Roundtable Discussions on Housing, Open Space, Rural Character, and Economic Development (8 meetings)

12/05/12- 02/25/13

Neighborhood Meetings (6 meetings)

12/20/12

Economic Development Plan completed and adopted by EDC

01/24/13

Housing Plan completed and adopted by NSAHC

02/14/13

Joint meeting all boards and commissions to hear presentation of EDC and Housing Plans (public meeting)

02/26/13

Surveys mailed – 3/15/13 closing date (430 collected)

02/27/13

Informal meeting with seniors at Senior Center luncheon

04/06/13

Visioning Session

04/11/13

Follow-up meeting with PZC, POCD SC, BOS and Planimetrics to refine vision and develop goals and objectives

04/22/13

Survey result summarization and discussion meeting

06/06/13-08/08/13

Goals and Objectives meetings

11/07/13-12/12/13

PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR ADOPTION

As part of the overall planning and visioning process, several formal and informal meetings were held over the course of two years. The POCD Steering Committee went to great lengths to provide residents opportunities for input into the POCD.

Initial meetings and workshops focused on housing and economic development as the Economic Development Commission and Affordable Housing Committee both drafted individual plans of their own (to later be incorporated into the POCD). In addition to the formal workshops and meetings, specific focus groups and other informal discussions were held with high school students, senior citizens, members of the business community and other stakeholders. Several joint boards and commissions meetings have been held to discuss topics such as land use, sewers, visioning, POCD goals and objectives, housing, and economic development.

The table to the left highlights the various opportunities for public input.

INFORMAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

The POCD Steering Committee hosted a total of eight informal discussions with local residents on a variety of planning topics. The topics were Economic Development, Rural Character, Open Space, and Housing.

Approximately 86 residents participated in these meetings. A summarization of notes taken is available on the town website or in the Land Use Office.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

The POCD Steering Committee held a series of six Neighborhood Meetings, each held in a meeting place within its own neighborhood with both town officials and residents taking part.

Recognizing the Village as its historic core, what took place was an acknowledgement of the beauty and importance of each of the town's surrounding widespread areas as well. Townspeople from many of the differing roadsides grappled with what to keep, what to protect, what to improve, and how to make good and future changes in their neighborhoods. Over and over, residents conveyed their intrinsic desire for quiet and privacy and yet to feel a part of the community itself.

The meetings were coordinated by POCD member, Madeline Jeffery, of North Stonington Citizens Land Alliance, with Juliet Leeming, Town Planner, participating in each meeting. Neighborhood leaders were: Bruce Fellman, Hilaire Cote, Robert Utter, Roy Kerlin, and John Olsen.

Approximately 135 residents attended the six meetings. A summarization of notes taken is available on the town website or in the Land Use Office.



Village Neighborhood



Clarks Falls Neighborhood

2013 TOWN-WIDE COMMUNITY SURVEY

The POCD Steering Committee and Town Planner developed a community survey that was sent to each mailing address in town and was available on line or in hard copy at various locations. 430 surveys were returned and many residents took the time to answer the open-ended questions in some detail. Based on the written comments received, there is a clear recognition that North Stonington is a special place. Residents expressed a deep desire to preserve what is good and special their town. There was also a clear recognition that some change is needed in order to sustain North Stonington as an affordable community especially given the harsh economic climate. Many feel that North Stonington can both retain its rural character and allow for a moderate increase in suitable commercial development. There are, however, many factors that complicate attainment of this desired balance.

A summarization of the survey results is available on the town website or in the Land Use Office.

VISIONING SESSION

Resident input culminated in a formal visioning session conducted by the Town Planner and POCD Steering Committee with help from consultants from Planimetrics consulting firm. Approximately 65 people attended the session. Participants were directed through a series of specific exercises designed to help them create an individual vision statement based on four themes identified: Livability, Sustainability, Progress and Community.

A summarization of notes taken is available on the town website or in the Land Use Office.



2013 Visioning Session