

Town of Simsbury
Update of Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)
Draft Scope August 9, 2022

The Town of Simsbury is preparing a focused update to the 2017 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The work program and final scope of the project is expected to be clarified once a selected consultant has been engaged. At a minimum, the following areas shall topic areas shall be reviewed, revised, amended, or extended:

Policy Engagement Topics

1. **Affordable Dwelling Units.** Review and update the POCD’s approach to Affordable Dwelling Units. In response to the Town’s adoption of the companion Affordable Housing Plan, consider inclusion of certain elements or by reference. Review policy direction which would further clarify support and/or encourage affordable dwelling units in the community.
2. **Public Act (PA)-21-29.** Review and update the POCD in response to the State Legislation contained in PA-21-29. Changes to the Zoning Enabling Act of 2021 were comprehensive enough to impact both the Policy and Regulatory documents of most Connecticut Municipalities. Attention should be paid to the application of the phrase “community character” throughout the 2017 POCD, in order to better clarify the intent of specific POCD goals and objectives, and ultimately local zoning regulations.
3. **Open Space Designation and Criteria.** The Town seeks guidance related to Public Act (PA) 490 and the classification of Open Space for assessment purposes. Consideration of this subject matter should include both the mapping and identification process found in PA 490, as well as the development of policy guidance for setting Open Space Classification criteria. Implementation of the Town Attorney’s recommendations based on a June 2, 2020 letter should be incorporated.
4. **Minor category specific revisions.** Several areas are identified for clarification and/or re-structuring.
 - A. Fiscal Impact Policy Statement. Consider the inclusion of fiscal impact policy and modeling tools for analysis of land use project impacts on Town services.
 - B. Regionalization. Consider policy additions addressing opportunities for shared services with other communities. Identify specific relationships and implementation measures and actions designed to increase service efficiencies.

C. Environmental Topics. Review Chapter 11, Sustainability & Resiliency. Consider updates regarding evolving practices and programs such as pollinator pathways, landscaping, solar, invasive species, and climate instability.

5. **Priority Matrix of Implementation Strategies**. Develop a clear prioritization schedule (short, mid, long) for the listed action and implementation items. This insert can assist the community and the Planning Commission in developing and/or facilitating an action plan. In addition, include a summary update on implementation progress from 2017-2023.

Public Engagement Plan and Process Direction

- Develop and conduct an on-line survey based on select topics in the POCD Update process.
- One public open house-style/ or virtual meeting is planned along with the statutory Public Hearing. All meetings and work sessions of the Planning Commission are open to the public.
- Select stakeholder meetings TBD.

The Town of Simsbury Planning Commission, along with Town Planning Department Staff and the assistance of consultant services, will oversee the POCD Update process. To be determined, Town Staff may be responsible for research, facilitation and primary work product in select scope areas.

Timeline

The Planning Commission proposes to initiate the process in September 2022 and anticipates a one-year project duration.

Deliverables

TBD

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