

1 **PLANNING COMMISSION – MEETING MINUTES**

2
3 **Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.**
4 **Main Meeting Room at Simsbury Town Hall**

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6 **I. CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Leavitt-Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

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8 **II. ROLL CALL**

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10 **Present:** Town Planner, George McGregor; Chair, Erin Leavitt-Smith; Holly Beum, Don
11 Colantonio, and Julie Eaton.

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13 **Absent:** Secretary, William Rice; Joseph Campolieta, and Craig MacCormac.

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15 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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17 All present stood for the Pledge.

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19 **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 26, 2022, REGULAR MEETING**

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21 Chair Leavitt-Smith stated that Line 41 reads “inquired” and should be “inquired of.”

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23 **MOTION:** Commissioner Eaton made a motion to approve the April 26, 2022, minutes as
24 amended. Commissioner Beum seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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26 **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

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28 **a. POCD UPDATE DISCUSSION**

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- 31 • Mr. McGregor stated that Glen Chalder would be glad to serve as a
32 consultant and would attend the June 28th meeting.
 - 33 • Mr. McGregor stated that the word “character” is used substantially
34 throughout the document, and there is a focus on a “sense of place”, and
35 that there needs to be more specificity on what those are defined as, how
36 they encapsulate what is meaningful for our town, and how they relate to
37 fostering inclusivity and diversity.
 - 38 • Mr. McGregor inquired of the Commission if there were items in need of
39 revision to address affordability for affordable housing.
 - 40 • Commissioner Eaton commented that she believed that the plan should be
41 folded into the existing POCD but there should be an expansion on
42 developing additional types of housing options.
 - 43 • Mr. McGregor stated that there was a 2020 authorization needing
44 clarifying.
 - 45 • Commissioner Eaton offered that it was for the second paragraph on page
46 80 concerning putting the burden on the developers to do the net impact
analysis to really assess what the impact on educational needs, police and

- 47 fire department needs, and the net fiscal impact, would be when a new
48 development is proposed.
- 49 • Mr. McGregor inquired of the Commission about clarifying an item under
50 regionalization
 - 51 • Commissioner Eaton stated it focused on how the Commission utilizes the
52 plan to identify opportunities in neighboring towns for community
53 facilities.
 - 54 • Mr. McGregor stated that in the state of CT the law says that land must be
55 recommended for preservation as open space in the town POCD by the
56 town's Planning Commission. He explained that means mapping in
57 specific parcels of land that are appropriate as open spaces and therefore
58 worthy of a reduced assessment. He identified that this requires two
59 components: the Planning Commission addressing the open space parcels
60 in the POCD, and the criteria that the Assessor will follow to apply for
61 reduced assessment.
 - 62 • Commissioner Eaton voiced a need to focus on overarching guidelines for
63 conservation, specifically Dark Skies and Pollinator Pathways because
64 there is a lot of current town activity.

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66 **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

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68 No correspondence.

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70 **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

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72 **MOTION:** Commissioner Beum made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eaton seconded the
73 motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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75 Chair Leavitt-Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

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77 Respectfully Submitted,

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79 Amanda Blaze
80 Commission Clerk