

Town of Simsbury Town
Update of Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)
Draft Scope May 23, 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 alluded to is PA 490, as well as the development of policy guidance for setting Open Space Classification criteria.
4. **Minor category specific revisions.** Several areas are identified for clarification and/or restructuring.
 - A. Fiscal Impact Policy Statement. Consider policy additions to consider mitigation of development impacts on municipal services and infrastructure
 - B. Regionalization. Consider policy additions addressing opportunities for shared services with other communities.
 - C. Environmental Topics. Consider policy additions including, but not limited to, pollinator pathways.
 - D. Census Data. Include, as available, new census data.

Public Engagement Plan and Process Direction

One public open house-style meeting is planned along with the statutory Public Hearing. All meetings and work sessions of the Planning Commission are open to the public.

The Town of Simsbury Planning Commission, along with Town Planning Department Staff and the assistance consultant services, will oversee the POCD Update process.

Timeline

The Planning Commission proposes to initiate the process in September 2022 and anticipates a six to nine-month project duration.

Contact

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