

Commission on Connecticut's Development and Future

Full Commission Meeting

Monday, June 6, 2022

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Meeting held in the Legislative Office Building Room 1E and via Zoom

In attendance: Representative Jason Rojas, Senator Tony Hwang, Representative Quentin Williams, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Christine Cohen, David Barkin, Timothy Hollister, Lamond Daniels, Anika Singh Lemar, Benjamin Wenograd, Gregory Ugalde, Randi Pincus, Donna Hamzy, Steven Kleppin, Alexandra Daum, Jennifer Perry, Paul Cicarella, Kiley Gosselin, Francis Pickering, David Elder

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm by Rep. Rojas

II. Approval of April 4, 2022 minutes

Rep. Rojas motioned to approve minutes from April meeting. Motion made and seconded. Minutes approved.

III. Working Group Reports

Rep. Rojas called on each working group for remarks

a. Report of Co-Chairs

i. State and Municipal Reporting

Rep. McCarthy Vahey reported that group heard a presentation from OPM on the POCD. Group has heard from municipal leaders about the municipal planning process and how it connects into the state process. Group meeting June 9th with 3 COGS discussing regional planning process.

ii. Model Code

David Barkin reported that the group has met a few times since last full commission meeting. On May 13th group heard presentation from Pete Harrison with Desegregate CT discussing form-based code and Francis Pickering who discussed street design issues and gave background on better street design from a community perspective. On May 27th Leslie Creane (planner of Groton) formerly from Hamden and planner by training discussed the Smart Codes published by New Urbanism on development of guideline code/ zoning ordinance applicable at different scales. On June 17th group will hear from Leslie Oberholtzer from CodaMetrics about what it means to develop town specific code. Language for model code had 5 subsets, group developed 3 subgroups based off the subsets and have developed subgroups. Next meetings: June 17th, July 8th, July 27th.

iii. Consolidated Housing Plan

Kiley Gosselin reported group has met twice. Group has spent time reviewing existing consolidated plan and looking at some of the other housing guidance documents that are available. Next meeting is June 23rd to do small group work.

Group identified multiple areas of focus, housing needs assessment, better tailor plan to dynamics of towns, rehabs and preservation goals, expanding evolution of prior performance and planning housing beyond funding. Next meeting smaller group work to identify a pathway forward. Rep. Quentin Williams reported that group has focused on developing an understanding of charge and aspirational planning.

iv. Municipal Affordable Housing Plans

Timothy Hollister reports that group has a draft outline. Key themes of outline include towns needing better guidance, not a one size fits all document, no need to punish towns for past conduct/recognize past efforts, report needs clear definition of what affordable housing is. We need to specify what is required. Section about barriers to affordable housing section. Encourage concrete steps and time frames. Provide criteria for towns to use to evaluate their plans. Keep an eye out potential legislative recommendations that will help. Hoping to have draft by September. Rep. McCarthy Vahey questioned whether group is planning public input. Hollister: as of right now just working group meetings scheduled but draft is available for all.

v. Sewerage

Senator Christine Cohen reported that group has met three times. Group heard Presentations from DPH and DEEP to develop understanding. Subcommittees to be formed is environment, water quality, alternative treatment systems and agency collaboration. Focus on charge of committee and develop model code.

IV. Business

Rep. Rojas thanked the groups for their work. Update public 22-74 provided additional time for commission to do its work. Final report is due January 1 of 2024. Interim report due July 1st. He noted that the next meeting is August 1st. Website will be updated with information from meetings and materials.

V. Public Comment

No public comment.

VI. Adjournment

Rep. Rojas thanked everyone and motioned to adjourn. David Barkin seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:47pm.