

10-15-2024

Mary Connolly

Charter Revision Committee

Background Information on committees that should be discussed as part of the Charter Revision Committee's tasks. Excerpts are from the Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD). The entire PoCD can be found on the Town's website under Land Use. The February 1, 2020 the PoCD, which was approved by the people of Woodbury, included adding the following committees.

Business & Economic Development Committee

Transportation & Infrastructure Goal: Proactively manage, maintain, and expand infrastructure to meet the community's needs while preserving rural character.

1 Improve the Town's digital infrastructure and physical infrastructure to support new technologies.

1.2	The Board of Selectmen should reestablish the Business & Economic Development Committee to work with local businesses to identify digital and physical infrastructure needs and explore ways to address those needs.
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Economic Development Goal: Build a diverse economy around small-scale, independently owned enterprises.

1 Work with the State and regional organizations to support activity that will help the Woodbury business community grow and prosper.

1.3	The Board of Selectmen should reestablish the Business & Economic Development Committee to work with local businesses to identify needs and explore ways to address those needs.
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2 Develop informational materials and improve processes to attract new business, support existing businesses, and shorten application and permitting timelines.

2.1	The Business & Economic Development Committee should work with the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce, Woodbury Business Association, Woodbury Antiques Dealer Association (WADA), the Connecticut Department of Economic Development (DECD), and CT Tourism to develop informational and marketing materials relevant to conducting and establishing a business in Woodbury.
2.2	The Business & Economic Development Committee should work with the Land Use Office and Building Department to provide step-by-step guidance documents and online instruction that assists new businesses and applicants in navigating the permitting and licensing process.

3 Continue to build community through themed events that encourage residents and business owners to mingle.

3.1	The Business & Economic Development Committee should work with local farmers to revitalize the farmers' market, explore a means of having a year-round public marketplace and otherwise provide opportunities for residents and local businesses to support local farms.
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There shall be a Business and Economic Development Commission consisting of five (5) members appointed as set forth in Appendix B as terms of incumbent members expire. There shall be two (2) alternate members appointed as set forth in Appendix B as terms of incumbent alternates expire. There should be a mix of current business owners, three (3), and two (2) residents of the Town that will comprise the five (5) members. Alternates should be one business owner and one resident. All business owners on the Commission do not need to be residents of the Town.

The Business and Economic Development Commission is an **advisory or governing (depending on CRC discussion)** body to the Board of Selectpersons. Their goals are to build a diverse economy around small-scale, independently owned enterprises. This will include working with local businesses to identify digital and physical infrastructure needs and explore ways to address those needs. The Commission will also coordinate with other local and state agencies to streamline, develop, and maintain informational and marketing materials relevant to conducting and establishing a business in Woodbury. Additionally, the Commission will provide opportunities for residents and local businesses to support local farms.

It shall have all the powers conferred on it and perform all the duties required of it by law.

Arts & Culture Committee

Cultural & Educational Resources Goal: Protect, promote, improve, and expand the town's cultural and educational resources.

3 Expand the community's focus on the arts and culture.

3.2	A newly formed Arts & Culture Committee should conduct outreach to local arts institutions to identify needs and explore sources of funding for those institutions. The Committee, in consultation with the Board of Selectmen, should also consider establishment of a Cultural District in accordance with Connecticut Public Act 19-143 for which the Committee could serve as the Town's Cultural District Commission.
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5 Promote Woodbury as a cultural destination.

5.1	Arts and cultural organizations are encouraged to establish a representative committee (the Arts and Culture Committee, or ACC) to advocate for actions to support arts and culture in Town.
5.2	The Board of Selectman should work with the Arts & Culture Committee to identify actions the Town can take to better promote the town's arts and cultural resources. This should include a user-friendly digital presence that will facilitate "one click" instant access to the robust arts and culture opportunities in Woodbury.
5.3	The Arts & Culture Committee should work with business organizations such as the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce (WCOC) to promote the town's cultural resources and expand the WCOC's capabilities in that area.
5.4	The Arts & Culture Committee should work with organizations such as the Western CT Tourism Council (WCTTC), Connecticut Office of the Arts & Culture Collaborative (CTACC) to increase the exposure of Woodbury's arts and culture offerings.

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There shall be an Arts & Culture Commission consisting of five (5) members appointed as set forth in Appendix B as terms of incumbent members expire. There shall be two (2) alternate members appointed as set forth in Appendix B as terms of incumbent alternates expire. Two (2) of the Commission members do not need to be residents of the Town, but they should be involved in Arts & Culture.

The Arts & Culture Commission is an **advisory or governing (depending on CRC discussion)** body to the Board of Selectpersons. Their goals are to protect, promote, improve, and expand the Town's cultural and educational resources. The Commission will conduct outreach to local arts institutions to identify needs and explore sources of funding for those institutions. Additionally, the Commission should identify actions the Town can take to better promote the town's arts and cultural resources. This should include a user-friendly digital presence that will facilitate "one click" instant access to the robust arts and culture opportunities in Woodbury. The Arts & Culture Committee should work with organizations such as the Western CT Tourism Council (WCTTC), Connecticut Office of the Arts & Culture Collaborative

(CTACC), Woodbury Chamber of Commerce, and the Woodbury Business and Economic Commission to increase the exposure of Woodbury's arts and culture offerings.

It shall have all the powers conferred on it and perform all the duties required of it by law.

This is informational since it is an ad hoc committee. Perhaps the Charter needs more clarity or direction on how it is decided which ad hoc committees are formed.

Ad Hoc Greenway Planning Committee

Transportation & Infrastructure Goal: Proactively manage, maintain, and expand infrastructure to meet the community's needs while preserving rural character.

5 Explore options for, and support the development of, a greenway network in Woodbury.

5.1	The Board of Selectmen should establish an ad hoc Greenway Planning Committee (GPC) tasked with developing a greenway vision and plan that includes shared-use pathways.
5.2	The Greenway Planning Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Commission, Inland Wetlands, Parks and Recreation Department, and organizations such as the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition and Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust should develop an up-to-date strategic open space protection and acquisition plan. Once finalized, this Plan should be amended to include that Plan.
5.3	The Greenway Planning Committee should work with NVCOG to include Woodbury's vision of a shared-use pathway network in regional greenway plans and pursue state funding for the planning, design, and construction of pathways.
5.4	The Greenway Planning Committee, with support from the Parks & Recreation Department and Land Use Office, should coordinate with private property owners and land trusts to incorporate private trails into the shared-use pathway network via usage agreements, signage, maps, and promotional materials.