

SUMMARY OF PLANNING BOARD ACTION

- Subject:** Potential Process for Developing Neighborhood Conservation Districts
- Meeting Date:** June 7, 2005
- Recommendation:** The Planning Board discussed options for proceeding with preparing multiple neighborhood conservation districts at its May 17, 2005 and June 7, 2005 meetings. In response to the Council's request on May 9, 2005 to provide input, the Planning Board offers the following comments and suggestions:
- The Planning Board is committed to developing a process, with staff, that will enable the consideration of multiple Neighborhood Conservation District applications at the same time. The Planning Board recognizes that this might place a burden on staff that would require them to bring in a consultant, and the Planning Board supports this suggestion. The Planning Board is concerned that if there are not adequate resources committed (Town staff and/or consultant), then the quality of a multiple Neighborhood Conservation District approach may suffer.
 - A commitment of all parties is required in order to make this multiple Neighborhood Conservation District approach a success—the community, the Planning Board, and Town staff and/or consultant.
 - Since the Planning Board would be highly dependent on a consultant for its success in this approach, the Planning Board would like to be involved in the process of selecting the consultant.
 - The Board suggests that the process be refined with the Planning Board, the consultant, and neighborhood representatives, rather than exactly specifying the entire process now.
 - The Board believes committee meetings, with designated neighborhood representatives, should be a focus of the process for developing neighborhood conservation districts in order to provide consistency of thought and decision

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making. The concept of just using neighborhood meetings feels inadequate.

- To add more value to the process and to provide the capability to do the process well, the Board feels that the consultant should also have the capabilities to facilitate meetings.
- The Board suggests researching solutions from other communities.
- The process should make full use of web sites that can accept public input and publish it, with a "guest book." The Town Technology Committee possibly could help with setting up this interactive site.
- The Board likes the idea of using its Long-Range Planning Board meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month as the time to work on neighborhood conservation districts. The schedule should set aside time at each such meeting for this topic, and other priorities of the Board established by the Council could be deferred if possible (such as working on reviewing the Town's Comprehensive Plan) and future requests should be minimized to allow the Board to focus on this project.

Vote:

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(Ayes: Tim Dempsey, Rebecca Boyles, Julie Coleman, Donna Stephens Manley, Nancy Milio, Gene Pease, Ruby Sinreich, Mitch Strobin)

Prepared by:

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Tim Dempsey, Chair

T D by CSB