

**Salem POCD Sub-Committee
Scheduled Meeting
September 8, 2010
Minutes**

Call to Order: Frank Abetti called the meeting to order at 7:35PM.

Members present: Linda Schroeder, Bill Schultz, Jim Fogarty and Gloria Fogarty. Dana Abetti joined the group at 8:10PM.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: No changes or modifications to the Minutes were necessary. M/S; Linda Schroeder/Bill Schultz to accept the Minutes as presented. Motion unanimously passed.

Old Business:

- **Jim Fogarty** reported on results of his research regarding appropriate procedure for **town designation of scenic roads**. He submitted State Statute documentation which essentially notes:
 - Towns can only designate town roads as scenic drives; they have no authority over state roads.
 - The power to designate scenic roads may be delegated by ordinance to a planning commission or a combined planning & zoning commission. The ordinance must prescribe the standards used to designate a road as “scenic”.

- **Chairman Abetti reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.** He plans to present a first draft document to Planning & Zoning at their 10/19/2010 meeting. The document will include materials about EDC, Agriculture, Forestry, Historical and Archeological Resources, Recreation, Regionalization, Natural Resources and Communication. Frank is to call Larry Reitz to check on his work with the Housing section. He will also speak with Karen Buckley regarding the progress of her Municipal Land Use Committee. To prepare for the P&Z presentation, POC&D members are asked to have their final papers ready for Frank by the 9/15/2010 meeting. He will then complete the final rewrite of the first draft in time for our 10/4/2010 meeting.
When Frank appears before P&Z, he will be asking about their expectations regarding the inclusion of information about a proposed Town Center.. Frank invited any/all POC&D committee members to join him at the P&Z presentation.

- **Presentation of modified Agriculture Section by Linda Schroeder.** The commission offered minor editing points, such as replacement of the words “ensure”& “promote” with less directive language, such as “encourage” and “ support”. Other edits included simplification of

phrases. Overall, the committee was highly satisfied with Linda's efforts to capture the findings of the recent Survey. She plans to meet soon with the ZEO to finish preparation of the Forestry section.

- **Presentation of modified Historic and Archaeological Resources by Bill Schultz:** When reviewing the recommendation regarding preservation of ancient cemeteries, Bill justified the selection of a 25 foot protective buffer for protection of existing cemeteries within a proposed subdivision. He noted that the State recommends this distance because research has shown that when slavery existed, slaves were usually buried outside the stonewalls of family cemeteries. The 25 foot measurement represents a reasonably safe distance to insure the stability/sanctity of their grave sites. The committee accepted the concept of protecting and maintaining ancient cemeteries. Bill's ideas regarding the protection of scenic roads was also accepted.

In response to committee interest, the chairman offered to craft language supporting the preservation of stone walls along road ways and property boundaries.

The committee also approved Bill's suggestion to promote historic district awareness by having the town erect Salem Historic District signage both north and south on Route 85. His final proposal focused on the need to educate Salem residents about our archaeological and historic past. He offered three recommendations : 1) encourage the Historical Society, the Salem School, the Friends of the Library and the Salem Town Hall to use their respective display cases to showcase Salem historic memorabilia; 2) Have a Salem Historical Day Celebration, where older homes might be opened for visitation, perhaps in conjunction with a visit a Salem Farm Day. 3) Repeat previous POC&D recommendation to offer annual dramatizations.

- **Dana Abetti reviewed her proposals for the EDC section:** Dana offered a thorough, comprehensive plan to improve the Town Economic Development process in compliance with Survey findings. The committee accepted her work, with minor editorial revisions to maintain consistency of language with other sections.
- **Gloria Fogarty submitted her suggestions for the Communication Section:** Three recommendations were proposed:
 - 1) Expand use of the existing Web site to provide information about upcoming town activities, news and results of town elections/referendums, list organizations in need of volunteers, etc.
 - 2) Amend P&Z recommendations to allow for construction of a centrally located Kiosk (bulletin board) to be used to share information with the public.

- 3) Post P&Z and Inland/Wetlands Regulations online to improve public access, provide notification of proposed regulation changes and advertise public hearings.
- 4) Publish in the Annual Town Report a list of activities accomplished in compliance with POC&D recommendations.

Gloria agreed to write two additional recommendations based on other committee ideas, The first concept involves use of social media, such as Twitter and Facebook as other vehicles for communication about Town events; the second would offer Town residents the opportunity to be on a communication distribution list to receive important outbound information in times of emergency.

New Business: None

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 7:30PM at Salem Town Hall.

M/S/C (Linda Schroeder/Bill Schultz) moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Fogarty