

# GREENWICH POCD: Community Outreach

## DIY Kit Workshop

Greenwich Association of Realtors

Friday March 23, 2018

Approximately 46 people attended this two-hour evening workshop. The Plan of Conservation and Development project and the purpose of the workshop was reviewed, which is, broadly speaking, to identify participants' concerns and aspirations for Greenwich. The following summary is a selection of what was discussed and is not intended to be a complete transcript of what was said or a recommendation of particular actions.

## Top Issues

The greatest part of the workshop was devoted to the participants developing a list of the issues facing Greenwich. This list includes 26 issues, of which participants were asked to select the three most important. Combining some into broader categories, the subjects that garnered the most votes are:

- Zoning is too complicated – 26 votes
- Need to eliminate FAR – 26 votes
- Excessive drainage regulations – 16 votes

The individual issues, organized by category, include:

- Town Processes
  - Zoning is too complicated – 26 votes
  - Eliminate FAR – 26 votes
  - Excessive drainage regulations – 16 votes
  - Fewer regulations on homes – 5 votes
  - More online processes – 3 votes
  - Closing-out permits – 2 votes
  - Using code amendments to advantage – 0 votes
  - Cost of approval process/too long – 0 votes
- Parks, Open Space, and the Environment
  - Limited chance to update flood zone – 7 votes
  - Improve Eastern Greenwich Civic Center – 3 votes
  - Wetlands – 2 votes
  - Need base flood maps in "A" flood zones – 2 votes
  - Need to enact fracking laws – 2 votes
  - Lack of field maintenance – 0 votes

- Community and Economic Development
  - Lack of affordable housing – 7 votes
  - Keep taxes low – 5 votes
  - Vacancy on Greenwich Avenue – 2 votes
  - More entertainment options on Greenwich Avenue – 0 votes
  - Improve school and town facilities – 0 votes
  - Cluster development in Backcountry – 0 votes
- Local Government
  - Impact of special interests on government decisions – 1 vote
  - Increase public/private partnerships – 1 vote
  - Better customer service at Town Hall – 1 vote
  - Uniform office hours in Town Hall – 0 votes
- Parking and Traffic
  - Lack of parking – 8 votes
  - Improve commuter parking – 4 votes
  - Traffic – 2 votes

### Recommended Actions

When asked what specific actions should be taken to improve Greenwich, participants suggested ideas about infrastructure, parks, recreation, and public safety. Ideas included:

- Build outdoor skating rink and deep pool at Eastern Greenwich Civic Center
- Build underground parking
- Rebuild Hamill Rink
- Build 2<sup>nd</sup> deck over parking lot across from Boys and Girls Club
- Bury power lines
- Develop a senior living facility
- Eliminate FAR and lot coverage in favor of some other bulk control
- Reduce onerous drainage regulations
- Build parking decks at train stations
- Pass the fracking ordinance
- Encourage preservation of buildings
- Build more sidewalks
- Upgrade school facilities
- Build affordable housing for seniors and young professionals
- Revise the permit process
- Allow lights at GHS stadium
- Build sound barrier walls along I-95
- Improve traffic patterns on Route 1 and Post Road
- Eliminate parking fees

## Greenwich's Strengths

When asked what is best about Greenwich, participants focused on the town's economic, governmental, environmental, and social attributes. Participants mentioned:

- Volunteerism
- Greenwich Avenue
- Natural resources/waterfront
- Quality of life
- School system
- Fiscal stewardship
- Proximity to New York
- Todd's Point
- Low taxes
- Library system
- Good mix of uses
- Diverse community
- Small town feel