

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD) SUBCOMMITTEE  
HELD REMOTEDLY**

**Tuesday, July 21, 2020, AT 7:15 P.M.**

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call: B. Broesder, J. Castiglione, J. Kader, P. Kearney, J. Quish /(STAFF) J. Griffith, D. Sulkis, M. Greene
- C. A discussion of agricultural topics with the goal of developing an updated action list.

Mr. Sulkis shared the agricultural resources map. Ms. Kearney asked to review minutes of the 7/16/2019 POCD meeting when agriculture was also discussed, specifically regarding PA 490 tax relief. Mr. Sulkis said he is looking for updated information from the assessor and an updated map of agricultural uses for the city's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst. He said he would ask the assessor to visit the board for an informational session. There was discussion of items on the agricultural map. Mr. Sulkis said he is working with GIS and the assessor on a new map that features where farms exist now. Mr. Quish asked for a high level goal for agriculture in Milford; he thought food production could be such a goal. Mr. Broesder noted that farm tourism plus farm-to-table restaurants and alternative energy sources could be part of small-scale agricultural goals. Mr. Quish spoke about the concept of farms featuring a robust retail presence. Mr. Sulkis said he extracted everything in regulations about farms and open space to help frame the discussion. Mr. Quish suggested that the definition of a farm as needing 3 acres could be revisited. Discussion ensued on how to incorporate encouragement of farming into the regulations, noting that the regulations are broken into zones, with different standards and models in each zone. Mr. Quish suggested a mission statement that incentivizes agriculture. Ms. Kearney looked at action plan and suggested a program that lets the city acquire parcels featuring prime soils.

Goals were brainstormed, including support for local "slow food" sales of local food to restaurants, directing best uses of great soil, perhaps with related open space easements. Mr. Sulkis said it might be helpful to explore known farms and high quality soils with a look at city-owned or city-controlled properties. Ms. Kearney said she supported expansion of city gardens intersected with good soil. Mr. Broesder wanted to ensure that regulations protect local farmers and to support community gardens; he also wanted to incorporate clean energy incentives. Mr. Quish emphasized that there will be a POCD online presence for community involvement. Mr. Kader wanted to consider shrinking size of farms, citing the example of herbs gardens capacity to create a big harvest on a small space. He also wanted to incentivize related opportunities to create renewable energy sources, perhaps by mandating solar for certain projects. Mr. Broesder suggested tying in community gardens with solar requirements. Mr. Quish posited imposing requirements for green roofs where feasible. Ms. Greene, speaking as a resource from staff, suggested that the group consider expanding or tightening farm animal definitions and what type of animals are allowed in what zones.

- D. Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2020 approved unanimously
- E. Member suggestions
- F. Adjournment was at 8:20.