

Wallingford 2015 POCD Update Description of Steering Committee Sub-Committees

1. Demographics, Housing, and Economic Development - Understanding current demographic trends within Wallingford and the region, the Town must assess whether its housing stock can meet the needs of not only current, but also desired future residents. Demographics, housing, and economic development are intrinsically linked, as the economic base of a community influences its demographics and housing and vice-versa. Building upon analyses of employment and industry data; municipal fiscal characteristics and trends through tax revenue and budgetary information; and commercial development patterns and trends. The Sub Committee will work to formulate appropriate economic development strategies that are in line with changing demographics and housing goals. One particular area of focus for economic development, the IX and I-5 zones, will be evaluated in depth by this sub-committee, and the information gathered and reviewed by this sub-committee will feed into the Downtown Plan later in the planning process.
2. Natural Resources, Open Space and Agriculture – This sub-committee will review existing mapping and inventories of natural resources, agricultural land uses and protected open space in Wallingford. Natural resources will be analyzed for land development and conservation potential, and consideration will be given to current open space and agricultural land management, as well as the potential for expansion of open spaces and agricultural lands. Agricultural operations will also be assessed from an economic development perspective.
3. Transportation and Circulation – Transportation is a critical component of any POCD and the character of a community, but especially for Wallingford in this update with the New Haven-Springfield commuter rail service expected to begin early in the life of this POCD. This sub-committee will address existing and planned road, pedestrian, bicycling and transit networks, assessing conditions through data analysis, previous and ongoing planning efforts and community input. Transportation Engineers will assess existing and anticipated deficiencies in transportation capacity and assist in identifying the infrastructure improvements and/or land use decisions required to address such deficiencies.
4. Community Facilities and Cultural Resources – Community facilities encompasses all infrastructure and programming dedicated to health, safety, cultural, recreational, educational and administrative uses, as well as utilities such as electric, water and sewerage systems as well as refuse collection. Facility needs, including park and recreational needs, will be reviewed vis-à-vis population and development trends. In addition, historic and cultural assets will be identified and assessed for maintenance/ preservation needs. Information and strategies resulting from this Sub Committee’s work will be useful in capital improvement planning and will feed the Downtown Plan later in the process.