



Creating Great Communities For All

Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association

Proposed CCAPA Legislative Priorities for 2022 Session

A. Major Priorities

1) Approval of Update to State Plan of Conservation & Development

We urge the overdue adoption of the PoCD rather than allowing for further delays or re-establishing the date expectations, and seek an active dialogue between OPM and the Commission on Development & Connecticut's Future on re-envisioning the purpose and process for this important document.

2) Make Permanent the Authorization of Virtual Meetings

Recognizing that public health concerns are likely to linger, and the vast majority of municipalities have seen both increases in public interest and participation in public meetings that are available via videoconference, we seek for the CGA to extend the electronic/virtual meeting provisions of SB 1202/PA 21-2 permanently.

3) Allow for Town Website Posting of Legal Notices in lieu of Newspapers

As an adjunct to the electronic meetings and notifications innovations allowed during the COVID pandemic, we strongly urge amendments to CGS Section 8-7 regarding public notification of meetings, hearings, and decisions, allowing municipal website notification in lieu of newspaper publication.

B. Additional Proposals for Support

1) Reforming the Process of Granting of Variances by ZBA

We are in support of the proposal by the Connecticut Bar Association to change definitions and criteria for the consideration and granting variances by Zoning Boards of Appeals.

2) Continued Reform of Zoning Regulations for Housing Development

We strongly support elements of overall agenda forwarded by DesegregateCT, Open Communities Alliance, and Partnership for Strong Communities, including minimum housing densities in TOD areas, consideration of "Fair Share" housing, and enabling the merger of Planning & Zoning Commissions with Zoning Boards of Appeals and inter-municipal Zoning Boards.

3) Certificates of Approval for Motor Vehicle Dealers & Repairers

We support the long-overdue migration of Certificates of Approval from ZBA purview to Zoning Commissions to unify land-use decision-making.