



INVITES CANDIDATES TO APPLY FOR:

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING (Land Use & Economic Dev)

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The character of Stonington is determined by its many unique features such as:

- ◆ Having four villages with residential / commercial uses and areas of historical significance
- ◆ Being bounded on three sides by rivers and scenic coastal areas
- ◆ Containing both rural residential and agricultural lands
- ◆ Having three interstate highway exchanges and two state route corridors with a mix of existing commercial development
- ◆ Having an AMTRAK station directly linking the Town with other areas along the north-east corridor
- ◆ The Borough of Stonington has a separate Planning and Zoning Commission and regulations
- ◆ Village of Mystic is part of both Stonington & Groton
- ◆ Major Employers-Davis Standard, Pequot Tribe, Town of Stonington, Mystic Seaport & Aquarium

COMMUNITY PROFILE AND HISTORY

Description & History

Stonington offers a rich mixture of cultural, recreational, educational and business opportunities, plus a unique glimpse into New England history. Settled in 1649, Stonington covers 42.7 miles of New London County in Southeastern Connecticut with a population of 18,545. Stonington has three distinct sections: the Borough, Pawcatuck, and Mystic.

The Borough of Stonington, the oldest borough in Connecticut, was incorporated in 1801. Steeped in its history as a whaling port and now home of the last remaining commercial fishing fleet in the State, it includes a number of large, well-maintained homes of former mariners including that of Captain Nathaniel B. Palmer, a discoverer of Antarctica. The house and the cherished Old Lighthouse Museum are owned by the Stonington Historical Society.

Pawcatuck has a proud heritage as the home of industrial leaders such as Davis-Standard LLC, a world leader in the manufacture and supply of extrusion machinery for the plastics and rubber industries, and Yardney Technical Products/Lithion Inc, a manufacturer of high energy density batteries for the Dept. of Defense and NASA. The company builds batteries for the USAF B-2 Bomber and NASA's Mars programs.

Mystic boasts four distinct visiting areas: Historic Downtown Mystic, with diverse specialty shops; Mystic Seaport - a living museum, comprised of the many activities that might be found in a New England coastal village of the 1800's; Old Mystic Village, which has over sixty shops set in a New England style village setting; Mystic Aquarium and Institute For Exploration.

Work, Learn & Play

Located just minutes off Interstate 95, the Town has an eclectic heritage. You will find a modern day blend of history, technology, and recreation. Toss in a major economic engine called tourism, place it against a scenic backdrop of sunlit, coastal waters with plenty of wildlife and then surround it with a thriving community and businesses, it becomes an ideal place to live, work, and play.

Education is a tradition in Stonington. Recent infusion of computer technology at the grade school level signal the beginning of a long range plan to keep Stonington's students up to speed in a changing world. Advanced educational opportunities are within a short distance with UCONN at Avery Point

(including Project Oceanology—Marine Science & Technology Center) Connecticut College, Mitchell College, Three Rivers Community College as well as local extension programs operated by the University of New Haven, Rensselaer polytechnic and Southern University at Groton.

Economic Development

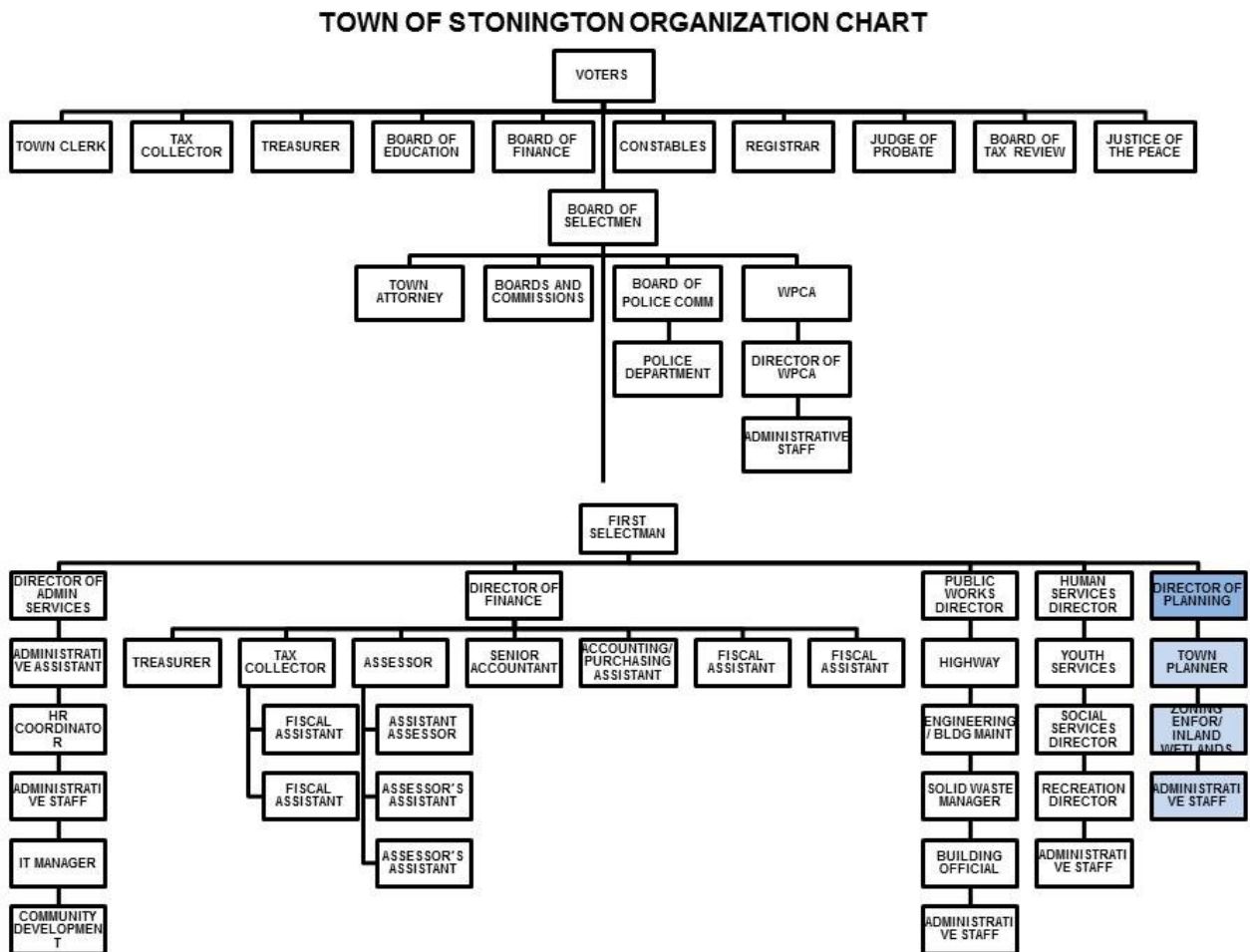
Within two hours of New York City and Boston and an hour from Providence and Hartford, Stonington offers a great place to do business. Stonington businesses draw on the New London County's diverse manpower pool of around 140,000 employees with a high concentration of skilled professionals, scientist, engineers, and craftsmen. Marine education and research are growing sectors of employment, with tourism as the fastest growing industry. Mystic along with the Casinos are among the most popular destinations in Connecticut



Form of Government

The Town adopted a charter in 1989 which establishes a Town Meeting form of government. The Town Meeting acts as the legislative body. The three-member Board of Selectman acts as governing body for most matters with certain boards and agencies having jurisdictions over specific areas, such as the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Planning and Zoning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals. The First Selectman is the Chief Executive Officer with an appointed Director of Administrative Services to maintain continuity of government services. The Director of Planning reports to the First Selectman and works with various Boards and Commissions.

Town of Stonington Organizational Chart



Director of Planning—Job Description

The Director of Planning performs highly responsible, professional and administrative work. This position directs, actively manages and leads the Planning Department which includes: Land Use, Wetlands, Zoning, Community Development and Economic Development. The Director is responsible for short and long term planning needs of the Town including the Town's Plan of Development (POD) which was just updated and the review of all new development related applications.

See link to POD— http://www.stonington-ct.gov/sites/stoningtonct/files/file/2015_pocd_final_version.pdf

- Supervises and assigns work to Town Planner, Inland Wetlands/Zoning Enforcement Officer and Administrative Assistant. Works with and provide advice to the following Boards and Commissions: Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission, Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, Architectural Review Committee, etc.
- Oversee long range planning and land use programs to promote economic and community development
- Administers, review, and makes recommendations on commercial, recreation, office, industrial and residential development proposal as well as periodic approvals of permits related to land use regulations
- Cultivates and maintains effective working relationships with public officials, residents, developers, municipal, regional, state and federal agencies
- Provide technical consultation, guidance and staff support to various Town planning and land use commissions—ensures coordination of planning and zoning and land use actions with other department and all commissions
- Manage department staff and budget
- Research, author, submit and administer grant applications

Characteristics of the Ideal Candidate

- Strong leader who can implement the vision of the Plan of Conservation & Development – looks at a balanced approach, listens to all stakeholders, brings diverse groups together and creates a vision with a clear course for action
- Integrity, consensus builder, proactive, flexibility to deal with changing demands, tactful and diplomatic communicator
- Expertise in planning, land use, zoning enforcement, affordable housing and economic development
- Management skills to motivate staff and implement cooperation among all staff within a unionized environment
- Organizational skills to improve efficiencies of office such as more pre-application meetings and streamlining the land use process and expedite application when possible
- Expertise and experience in coastal communities and dealing with FEMA flood zone issues (certification helpful)
- Be part of the management team with other department heads – works closely with Town Engineer in Public Works Department and Building Official.
- Interpersonal skills with highly effective written and oral communication – builds rapport and effective relationships with various groups – be a strong voice for land use development
- Coordinates all Land Use issues with the various Boards and Commission and keeps line of communication open with all: Planning & Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands, ZBA, Conservation Commission, Affordable Housing Committee, Architectural Review Board and Economic Development Commission then implement their policies



Qualifications:

The education, experience and training required would generally be acquired with a Bachelor's degree in Urban Regional or Community Planning, or Public administration or related field. Master's Degree preferred. A minimum of 8-10 years of professional experience in land use and/or planning management including a minimum of 3-5 years of demonstrated supervisory experience required; or an equivalent combination of education, experience and training. AICP required.

Challenges and Opportunities



- Implementation of the new Plan of Conservation and Development
- Manage revisions to the zoning regulations (most recently sign regulations have come under scrutiny)
- Promote balanced and smart growth – See Plan of Development for details
- Current projects include: Thread Mill reuse for affordable housing, new elder care facilities, new state of the art building at the Mystic Seaport
- Work with villages to build upon the existing businesses, work with the Westerly-Pawcatuck and Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Mystic Merchants Association which includes Stonington and Groton, and work with regional agencies
- Oversee funds set aside for economic development and grant writing
- Opportunity to work with two mill sites that have brownfields with the potential for new economic development
- Enhance the tax base through additional commercial/industrial development
- Ability to work with diverse groups including: fishing industry, marine industry, shellfish commissions, tourism destinations
- Balance the demands of economic development while maintaining the scenic, historic village characteristics and agricultural/open space feel to this unique community



Compensation and Application Process

The salary for this position is negotiable depending on qualifications & experience - (Base Salary Range-\$90,000-\$100,000) with an excellent benefits package which includes:

- Defined 401A Contribution Plan (5% Town & 3% employee). Optional 457 Plan
- Professional Membership-APA
- Health Benefits - High Deductible Plan (Single \$2000 deductible 50%-\$1000 Town & 13% premium share). Plus other Employee Benefits

For more information see the Town web sites: <http://www.stoningtonedc.com/stonington.html>
<http://www.stonington-ct.gov/Pages/index> <http://www.borough.stonington.ct.us/>

Stonington is an EOE/AA/Equal Access Employer

If you meet these qualification and want to be considered for this Position of Director of Planning in the Town of Stonington please mail or email your resume and cover letter immediately (deadline is October 19 2015) to:



Ms. Randi Frank
Randi Frank Consulting, LLC
7 Promontory Drive
Wallingford, CT 06492
randi@randifrank.com
www.randifrank.com
Phone 203-284-3707