

NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 7:00pm

MINUTES

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82555248288>

Meeting ID: 825 5524 8288

Members Present: Jaci Allen, Brian Loeb, Ernie Ciccotelli, Melissa Horwitz, Jeff Goodrich

Public: Linda Cook, Kyle Katz

Meeting Opened: 7:01 pm

1. Approve Agenda: Goodrich suggested additional items be covered at another time. Horwitz moved, and Loeb seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0.
2. Public Comment: No public Comment
3. FEMA flood map updates and Norwich flood regs

Kyle Katz, Regional Planner with TRORC and Interim Zoning Administrator for the Town of Norwich, provided an overview of the FEMA flood map updates and the activities Two Rivers is engaged to get communities ready with updated regulations. A discussion ensued of Norwich readiness.

- Current Norwich flood regs meet minimum standards in most areas and exceed standards in a few areas. Exceeding standards in more areas would be advantageous and will be done as part of the rewrite of the zoning by-laws.
- Norwich does not yet qualify for 17% State reimbursement in the event of another flood disaster. Our current rate of reimbursement by the State is 12.5%. Norwich needs to complete CRS (Community Rating System) certification or adopt River Corridor maps to qualify.
- The Planning Commission has had the CRS vs. River Corridor debate in the past and determined that CRS (Community Rating System) was the best path to pursue. This is the rationale:
 - River Corridor maps do not take actual flood elevations into account, creating development constraints that may be unnecessary.
 - River Corridor maps would be another layer over Norwich Flood Hazard maps. The differences in the two sets of maps are not large, but adopting River Corridor would add a layer of complexity to implementation.
 - Norwich CRS certification by FEMA would qualify residents for reduced flood insurance rates.
- After a lengthy discussion of what this would take, Allen moved and Ciccotelli seconded a motion that authorized Jeff Goodrich to assess Norwich current status related to CRS certification and scope of work to complete the task. Motion carried 5-0. Allen agreed to discuss facilitation support with Two Rivers and bring back a proposal to the group.

4. Announcements and Updates AHSC update:
 - The Connecticut River Joint Commission is seeking two representatives from Norwich. Their mission is to preserve and protect the visual and ecological integrity and sustainable working landscape of the Connecticut River Valley. Contact Olivia Ulyzeye at 603-727-9484 or ouyizeye@uvlsrpc.org if interested.
5. Approve Minutes: Horwitz moved, and Loeb seconded to approve the 2/06/23 minutes. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Other Business: None
7. Future Meeting Schedule, and Agenda
 - Next meeting 5/9/2023
 - Draft of Topics:
 - Assessment of CRS status and scope of work
 - Proposal from Two Rivers for facilitation support
 - Preferred siting request from Aaron Lamperti
 - Search process
 - Organizational meeting
8. Public Comment: No public Comment
9. Motion to adjourn Loeb, Horowitz second to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned 8:45pm.

Approved 05-09-2023