

Minutes

Town of Norwich
Selectboard Special Meeting
Tuesday, November 27, 2012
Tracy Hall, Norwich, Vermont

Members present: Christopher Ashley (Chair), Ed Childs, Linda Cook (Vice-Chair), Stephen Flanders (Acting Secretary), Keith Moran

Members absent: None

Also Present: Susan Brink, Ernie Ciccotelli, George Clark, Phil Dechert, Neil Fulton (Town Manager), Linda Gray, Tom Gray, Peter Griggs, Liz Russell

Chair Ashley called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Topics Discussed

1. Introduction:

After a brief introduction on the purpose of the special meeting as an opportunity to solicit public input for strategic planning ideas, Ashley turned the floor over to Flanders.

2. Workshop:

Introduction – Flanders gave an overview of the definition of a strategic plan, the steps that such a plan entails, and the ideas that had been discussed to date. He then offered the public an opportunity to present additional topics. The topics discussed to date were:

- Economic sustainability
- Environmental sustainability
- Public facilities
- Village traffic
- Commercial townscape
- Residential townscape
- Internet connectivity
- Parks, trails and routes

Additional topics offered by attendees were:

- Retaining the character of the town's social fabric and landscape.
- Improved communication between town government and the townspeople.
- Energy conservation.

He invited the audience to provide further ideas and offer input on which ideas merit further development.

Public input – After discussing the set of topics, Flanders invited the attendees to circulate among posters, representing each topic that were hanging in the meeting space and write comments on those topics of interest to the attendees. After an interval, selectboard members who had been minding each poster gave a summary of what had been written. The public was

also invited to check “yes” to continue considering each topic or “no” to discontinue the topic. Very few “no’s” were offered.

3. Follow-up:

Upon conclusion of the workshop phase, Ashley led a discussion on what the next steps should be. After some discussion, the selectboard tacitly agreed that the following actions would take place: The Strategic Planning Subcommittee (Cook and Flanders, assisted by Fulton) would assimilate the comments received in the workshop into a next-generation document for consideration at the 9 January 2013 selectboard meeting. At that meeting, the selectboard would identify potential citizen groups that might contribute to areas of the strategic plan that reflect their areas of interest.

4. Adjournment:

Motion: Childs moved and Moran seconded that the Norwich Selectboard adjourn

The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: 8:10 PM

Approved by the Selectboard on December 12, 2012.

Christopher Ashley
Selectboard Chair