

NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 14, 2009

Tracy Hall - Meeting Room

Members Present: Daniel Johnson, Ralph Hybels, Richard Stucker, Anne Silberfarb

Members Absent: Brooke Adler, Jeff Goodrich, Tom Gray **Clerk:** Phil Dechert

Others:

Daniel Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

1. Approve Agenda – Agenda was approved by **unanimous consent**.

2. Comments from the Public – None

3. Announcements & Correspondence – None

4. Minutes – April 23, 2009 minutes approved as read

5. Reports:

- **April 23, 2009 Inclusionary Zoning Forum** (See April 23, 2009 PC Minutes)
 - After discussion it was agreed to continue working on the details of the draft. Dechert will ask several people knowledgeable in developing affordable housing and related legal issues to comment on the draft. Additional discussion and review of comments is scheduled for the July 23, 2009 PC meeting.
- **May 6, 2009 - Forum on Norwich Town Highways & Community Facilities**
 - This forum was attended by more than 25 residents and included discussion of many issues and new ideas related to transportation and recreation facilities.
 - Notes from the forum are attached and will be utilized in the preparation of the Facilities chapter of the town plan.
- **May 13, 2009 – Selectboard Meeting – Zoning Amendments**
 - The Selectboard Public Hearing for the amendments to the zoning regulations will be warned on May 19, 2009 for a hearing on June 10, 2009.

6. Town Plan –

Discussion of the Transportation Chapter and the Energy Chapter was deferred to the next meeting.

7. Adjournment – 8:15 PM

Phil Dechert

APPROVED 5/28/09

Future Meetings:

Thursday, May 28 at 7 PM – Regular Meeting

Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 PM - Selectboard Public Hearing - Zoning Amendments

Thursday, June 11 at 7 PM – Regular Meeting

Notes from May 6, 2009 Forum on
**Norwich Town Highways
& Community Facilities**

ROAD – TRANSPORTATION

- Re-routing trucks from Route 5 through Village to River Road
 - Not feasible based on discussions with VTrans, but will check again.
- Road Safety – Bikes, Sight Lines, Speed
 - When roads and bridges are re-built, provisions should be made for bike and pedestrian safety.
- Paving Portions of Dirt Roads
 - Although there may be a fiscal advantage to pave high use gravel roads, residents have generally not supported it.
- Sidewalk Plans
 - Long term plans for extending sidewalks should be included in the town plan.
 - See proposed sidewalk plan in Norcap report.
- Corridor Master Plan (2000) through Village should continue to be used as a guideline for future improvements to bike, pedestrian, drainage, and landscaping facilities.
- Traffic Shed Analysis for land use planning
 - Effect of additional development on roads should be available to planners.

- I-91 North Exit Ramp
 - Slip Lane is being removed. Vehicles will need to stop before turning right.
- Tuck Drive left turn off of Wheelock Street
 - Creates bottleneck going into Hanover.
- Elm Street
 - Concern with safety, speeding cars, pedestrians
- US Route 5, Main Street, Church Street
 - 3 way intersection confusing and accident prone. The search for an affordable solution should be revisited.
- Beaver Meadow Road (Main Street to Norwich Pool) – Issues:
 - Commuter traffic – Alternative routes?
 - Sidewalk – Sidewalk planned
 - Kids on blind knoll near pool entrance – Sidewalk will help
- Sidewalks – Appears to be increasing usage of existing sidewalks
 - Close Huntley Meadow Loop – Beaver Meadow Road
 - Moore Lane - Extension of sidewalk being done from Huntley Meadow parking to Moore Lane.
 - Beaver Meadow Road from Hopson Road to Norwich Pool – Have applied to state for funding.
 - Huntley Meadow Pedestrians
 - Pony Bridge planned across Blood Brook to replace the cable bridge west of Legion for Connector Loop.
 - Elm to Hopson – Sidewalk Loop
 - Elm Street Safety

RECREATION AND OTHER

- New Park-n-ride at Huntley
 - Under construction
 - Need to monitor traffic patterns and use to gauge impact on recreation parking.
- ATVs
 - Limit use on trails and town land
- River Access - Existing
 - River Road (before 1st House on right) 1/10th acre
 - Very small, no parking
 - Head of Ompompanoosuc (State Fish and Game landing)
 - Small, restricted access
 - Foley Park – CT River at Ledyard Bridge
 - No Parking
 - Steep Banks
- River Access - Potential
 - Campbell Flats Road – First property on left
 - Four acres mostly in Floodway
 - Cannot be developed. Has existing buildings.
 - On the market
 - Dresden Rowing Property – On CT River across from Farrell Farm Rd
 - 2.66 Acres mostly in Flood Hazard Area
 - Across Railroad Tracks – Difficult and/or expensive to permit traffic to cross tracks.
 - Montshire Museum River Access
 - Never considered

- Trails
 - Update master plan for future trails
 - Recognition of value
 - Big Loop Trail/connector of the road fingers
- Pool
 - Keep existing pool as is; retrofit or replace dam as needed, maintain reserve fund.
 - Maintenance important
 - Access Road – Safety (New sidewalk will help)
 - Very unique