

NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Tracy Hall - Meeting Room

Members Present: Daniel Johnson, Ralph Hybels, Richard Stucker, Anne Silberfarb, Brooke Adler, Jeff Goodrich

Members Absent: Tom Gray

Clerk: Phil Dechert

Others:

Daniel Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

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

2. Comments from the Public – None

3. Announcements & Correspondence – “Demographics of Transportation Study of Two-Rivers-Ottawaquechee Region” prepared by TRORC was received. Available at:

<http://www.trorc.org/pdf/DemoTransTRORC09.pdf>

4. Minutes – May 28, 2009 minutes approved with change

5. Report – June 10, 2009 – Selectboard Meeting –

- Open Meeting Policy - Selectboard discussed a revised draft of an Open Meeting Policy for all town boards, commissions, and committees. A new draft will be considered at their June 24 meeting.
- Zoning Amendments – Adopted and will be effective July 1, 2009

6. Town Plan –

Transportation Chapter – The June 10 draft has been distributed to the PC members and the Transportation Committee. The Transportation Committee will send comments in July. It was agreed to schedule a discussion of the Transportation Chapter for July 23 meeting and invite the Transportation Committee and any others interested.

Energy Chapter – Dechert recommended that the existing Energy Chapter draft be re-drafted and not be based on the 1996 version. A proposed outline for a new chapter was discussed and revised. Dechert will have a draft chapter ready for the July 9 meeting based on the revised outline and comments from the Energy Committee on the earlier draft.

Policy Conflicts – It was agreed that the town plan should address conflicts between different chapters of the town plan and between conflicting policies. Examples: protecting the views of scenic areas and ridgelines versus building renewable energy structures where they will be most efficient; assessment policies of the Listers (often mandated by state statute and rules) and the policy to encourage to maintaining undeveloped open space, farmland, and contiguous forest land.

Schedule – A request for an updated schedule for completing the town plan will be distributed by Dechert before the next meeting.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be devoted to outlining the Housing Chapter. Dechert will not be at the meeting but provide materials ahead of time.

7. **New Business - Paving/Enhancement Project** – Dechert gave an update on the state project for rehabilitation and repaving US Route 5 from Wilder to the intersection with River Road in Norwich. Route 10A and River Road are also included. The project will begin in July and will include some of the improvements planned in the Corridor Enhancement Project including a new sidewalk around the Green down to the Peisch/Hybels House, eliminating and re-striping lanes, and bike lanes where feasible.

8. **Adjournment** – 9:30 PM

Phil Dechert

APPROVED 6/25/09

Future Meetings:

Thursday, June 25 at 7 PM – Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 9 at 7 PM – Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 23 at 7 PM – Regular Meeting – Transportation Review