

NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION  
Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, January 11, 2018, Tracy Hall**

Regular Meeting

**Members Present:** Goodrich, Allen, Lubell, Brink, Horwitz, Thoms

**Members Absent:** Brien **Clerk:** Phil Dechert

**Others:** Linda Cook, Linda Gray, Dana Ireland, Gerry Ireland, Colin Calloway, Craig Layne, Stuart Richards

Jeff Goodrich, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. **Approve Agenda** – Approved
2. **Meeting Topics and Goals**
  - a. Affordable Housing Listening Sessions
  - b. Status review on Zoning Regulation updates
3. **Comments from the Public**
  - a. Stuart Richards – Concern with proposed “listening groups” – Moved to Item #7
4. **Minutes** – 12-14-17 – Approved without changes.
5. **Announcements, Reports, Updates & Correspondence**
  - a. Correspondence
    - i. Request from Linda Gray of the Energy Committee for PC Recommendation to Selectboard to place VT Climate Pledge Coalition Article on the Town Meeting Warrant. Goodrich proposed alternate resolution. After discussion Allen moved to support the request and Horwitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 1. (Goodrich voted against.) Gray will send draft of memo to Selectboard for the Commission review.
    - ii. 11-28-17 Email from Ernie Ciccotelli re: Affordable Housing – Received – No action
    - iii. 1-3-18 Email from Charlotte Metcalf to TRORC re: Town Plan – Received – No action
  - b. Updates
    - i. **Selectboard Town Plan Draft Hearings** – Several members indicated they will attend either the January 20<sup>th</sup> or the January 23<sup>rd</sup> hearing, or both.
    - ii. **Enhanced Energy Working Group** – Jaci Allen reported on the last meeting of the Enhanced Energy Working Group and the process for developing an Enhanced Energy Plan. Dechert explained that the Working Group can be a stand-alone committee rather than a subcommittee as long as it follows the Open Meeting Law.
6. **Town Plan - Proposed Amendment RE: Act 171** – Dechert

Dechert presented minor draft Town Plan revision to comply with new required Town Plan element to address forest fragmentation. Most of the necessary wording is already in the Natural Resource and Land Use sections of the Town Plan. The proposed revision drafted by PlaceSense (Brandy Saxton) added some minor changes. The new draft was approved by consensus and the Clerk will forward it to the Selectboard at the appropriate time.

- 7. Affordable Housing Listening Sessions – Lubell & Allen**
  - a. Jeff Lubell reviewed an outline “Listening Sessions about Housing Affordability” which includes a Purpose statement, a discussion outline, and a FAQ with responses. The smaller “Listening Sessions” will be followed by larger presentations and discussions. The purpose is to develop an overall affordable housing strategy for a future town plan.
  - b. Stuart Richards comments:
    - i. Affordable housing should have priority over elderly housing
    - ii. A survey of residents would be better than the listening sessions
  
- 8. Zoning Regulations Amendments - Dechert**
  - a. Dechert discussed process for updating Zoning Regulations
  - b. He presented a quick review of “Status of Zoning Regulation Amendments ver. 01-09-18”
  
- 9. Other Business**
  - a. Jaci Allen will edit Town Report article
  
- 10. Future Meeting Schedule & Agendas**
  - a. Next Meeting – January 25, 2018
  - b. Discuss Questionnaire
  
- 11. Public Comment - None**

**Adjournment – 8:38 PM**

Phil Dechert, Clerk

*APPROVED 1-25-18*

**Future Meetings:**

Thursday, January 25, 2018 – Regular Meeting  
Thursday, February 8, 2018 – Regular Meeting

Planning Commission Agendas & Minutes available at: <http://norwich.vt.us/planning-commission/>