

NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 8, 2018, Tracy Hall

This set of minutes has not been reviewed or approved by the Planning Commission
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Members Present: Jaci Allen (Chair), Susan Brink, Steve Thoms, Jeff Lubell (via phone)

Members Not Present: Jeff Goodrich, Melissa Horwitz

Public: Rob Gurwitt, Linda Gray, Stuart Richards, Claudette Brochu

Staff: Rod Francis

Jaci Allen, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

1. Approve Agenda - Approved---Move: Thoms. Second: Brink 4 — 0
2. Meeting Objectives:
 - a. Discuss Action Item Status and Next Steps
 - b. Discuss Town Plan Survey question #1
3. Comments from the Public
 - a. Linda Gray — EV charging station at Huntley Field Park and Ride Grant Application

Motion #1: The Planning Commission authorizes Jaci Allen as Chair to sign a resolution in support of the project. Move: Brink, Second: Thoms. 4 — 0

- b. Stuart Richards — Support for Norwich Affordable Housing Inc. (NAHI) endeavors to initiate a Twin Pines Housing Trust affordable housing project
4. Review Minutes 10-11-18
 - a. Move: Brink, Second Thoms. 4 — 0
5. Announcements, Reports, Updates & Correspondence
 - a. Correspondence (Francis)
 - i. Chris Brien
Resignation letter accepted with regret and appreciation for service
 - ii. Town of Sharon
See separate memo from Francis, the proposed amendment is compatible with the Norwich 2018 Town Plan. No further action required.
 - iii. Stuart Richards
Richards requested that minutes from the October 25 meeting of NAHI be included here under correspondence
 - b. Announcements
 - i. Candidates for Open PC position
Selectboard is to interview candidates on November 14. Commissioners Lubell, Thoms and Brink expressed dismay that the application period was so short,

reducing the potential for people to respond. Chair Allen is to convey this concern to the Town Manager and Selectboard.

- c. Updates (Francis)
 - i. TRORC
No information available regarding a proposed meeting Selectboard members, the TRORC Chairperson and Executive Director
 - ii. River Corridor Regulations
No feedback from ANR DEC yet
 - iii. Enhanced Energy Committee
Forthcoming meeting cancelled, next meeting December 4
 - iv. Affordable Housing Committee
Next meeting possibly November 20 to discuss draft policy to guide Selectboard implementation of fund program
6. Discuss Action Item Status and High Priority Next Steps
 - a. Housing Plan (Lubell spoke to the included print out of a powerpoint summarizing a spreadsheet also included in the packet)
 - b. Economic Development (Brink spoke to the included print out of a powerpoint summarizing a spreadsheet also included in the packet)
 - c. Education — (Thoms spoke to the included print out of a powerpoint summarizing a spreadsheet also included in the packet)
 - d. Transportation — (Thoms spoke to the included print out of a powerpoint summarizing a spreadsheet also included in the packet)
 - e. Energy — to be discussed at a later meeting
 - f. Natural and Historic Resources (Brink spoke to the included print out of a powerpoint summarizing a spreadsheet also included in the packet)
 - g. Land Use — to be discussed at a later meeting
7. Town Plan Survey Question #1
Methodology — Allen and Brink outlined the methodology they adopted to identify the comments in relation to existing Town Plan chapters, and then how this data was run through an application that generated word clouds

Allen drew attention to the dichotomy present between requests for maintaining and/or adding services and reducing the tax burden.

Brink commented that out of more than 1,500 total comments 125 could be coded as “outlier” comment, that didn’t conform with an observed pattern or readily identifiable topic (as in terms that were included in the word cloud creation)
8. Other Business
9. Future Meeting Schedule & Agendas
10. Comments from the Public
 - a. None.

Motion #2: To adjourn.

Move: Thoms Second: Lubell. 4 — 0 Adjourned at 8:05PM

Respectfully submitted: Rod Francis

APPROVED 12-13-18

Future Meetings:

Thursday December 13, 2018, 6:30pm Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 10, 2019, 6:30 pm Regular Meeting

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