

Norwich PC Minutes -9/12/23

Members Present: Ernie Ciccotelli, Vince Crow, Jeff Goodrich, Stuart Richards, Jaan Laaspere, Bob Pape, Kris Clement

Public: Lisa Close

Meeting Opened: 6:46 pm

1. Approve Agenda:

Goodrich moved, seconded by Ciccotelli, to approve the agenda.

Motion passed 7-0

2. Public Comment on items not on the agenda

Lisa Close stated that she is interested in establishing regulations that focus on nature and its inhabitants regarding development, focusing on preserving what we have.

3. Correspondence

Consensus was met to hold a special meeting regarding the proposed solar project at 249 Bragg Hill Rd on 9/19/23 at 6 pm. This will allow public input on the proposed solar project.

4. Chair Report

Laaspere stated that moving forward the PC should focus on the task at hand and with regard to the power of the PC.

5. Subcommittee updates

a. Solar Siting Committee

Klement stated that focus of the Solar Siting Committee is to keep up to date with evolving laws and regulations and how that affects the town plan and land use regulations.

Goodrich encouraged the subcommittee to add members outside of the PC to utilize members of the public with skills and knowledge of the subject.

Laaspere stated that the group had planned to add more members but as it became less formal as an advisory committee as there is no voting involved.

Ciccotelli stated that this subcommittee is about collecting ideas and bringing them to the PC.

Laaspere stated that adding additional members could still happen in the future and reiterated that the goal is to maximize public input.

b. Land Use

Richards stated that the main focus at this point is determining the process to make the appropriate changes to the town plan and the land use regulations.

Pape stated that he is in the process of creating an editable version of the town plan that the group can use to make proposed edits.

Laaspere stated the group need to focus on specific parts of the town plan and be focus on the work in those areas.

Goodrich encouraged reaching out to other group throughout the Upper Valley for their input and embrace the broader community.

Laaspere stated that the subcommittees need to define and create a boundary around their first stage of work.

6. Planning & Zoning files

Laaspere explained that screenshots of folders of the available planning and zoning files were included in the packet and solicited requests for specific files based on that information.

Goodrich requested a copy of the original town plan with graphics and maps as well as the recent Land Use Regulation updates.

7. Planning Commission staff

Consensus was met to encourage members of the PC to attend the next SB meeting on 9/27 to discuss the chair's memo regarding the open staff position, specifically Job Title, Job Description, and hiring process.

8. Planning Commission work plan

Laaspere stated that is receiving positive feedback after reaching out to the DRB, Conservation Commission, Energy Committee and Listers for input in the work of the PC. He also encouraged members of the PC to attend an upcoming meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission on 9/28 at the request of the HPC Chair.

9. Approve minutes

Pape moved, seconded by Clement, to approve August 8 & August 22, 2023 minutes

Motion 6-0 (Goodrich abstained in absentia)

10. Public Comment

N/A

11. Adjourn

Crow moved, seconded by Pape, to adjourn the meeting at 8:42PM

Motion passed 6-0 (Goodrich abstained in absentia)

Future Meetings:

Special Meeting - 249 Bragg Hill Rd Solar Project – 9/19/23 at 6pm via Zoom

PC Meeting – 10/10/23 at 6:30pm at Tracy Hall (also accessible via Zoom)

Minutes by Vincent Crow on 9/14/23