

**NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, July 25, 2019, 7:00pm
Tracy Hall-Meeting Room

Members Present: Jaci Allen (Chair), Brian Loeb, Jeff Goodrich, Jeff Lubell, Ernie Ciccotelli (7:15pm), Steve Thoms (left at 7:10pm), Leah Romano

Members Not Present: Susan Brink, Melissa Horwitz

Public: Linda Gray, Craig Layne (Conservation Commission), Linda Cook, Nathan Margolis, Barry Rotman, Peter Gregory (TRORC), Kevin Geiger (TRORC)

Staff: Rod Francis (Clerk)

Jaci Allen (Chair), called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

1. Approve Agenda: Lubell moved and Romano seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4 — 2
2. Meeting Objectives
 - a. TRORC Update
 - b. Discussion with Conservation Commission on draft Land Use Chapter
 - c. Discuss next steps on calendar and input from Town Plan feedback events
3. Comments from the Public. Thoms announced resignation effective immediately. The Commission and staff wished him well and thanked him for his service.
4. TRORC Update
 - a. Peter Gregory (Executive Director) and Kevin Geiger (Senior Planner) gave an outline of the process TRORC is following for the approval of the 2019 Regional Plan. They expect to release a response to comments from towns and individuals soon. The plan is on track for a full Commission vote of approval in October.
 - b. TRORC is available to review working drafts of chapters, participate in forums and support the PC and SB throughout the Norwich town plan adoption process.
5. Discussion with Conservation Commission draft Land Use chapter
Craig Layne discussed a list of comments:
 - a. Maintaining Forest Integrity is a high priority, even at very low levels of development
 - b. While the current density calculation process for new subdivision directs more intense development closer to the village protecting forest block integrity may complicate this because of the proximity of mapped forest blocks to the village
 - c. Education of existing and new property owners is critical to the success of this new state requirement
 - d. Many meadows are protected under conservation easements which often stipulate when the fields are to be brush-hogged
6. Discussion about next steps on calendar and input from Town Plan feedback events
 - a. 9/12 Housing Workshop confirmed
 - b. Land Use/Zoning 101 (including FAQs) TBA
 - c. Rod will ask that a button be added to the Town homepage linking users direct to 'town plan page'
<http://norwich.vt.us/town-plan-2019/>

7. Approve Minutes
 - a. Lubell moved and Ciccotelli seconded a motion to approve the minutes of June 27, 2019. Motion carried 5 —0
 - b. Lubell moved and Romano seconded a motion to approve the minutes of July 2, 2019. Motion carried 4 —1 (abstain).

8. Announcements, Reports, & Correspondence
 - a. Correspondence
 - i. Various emails requested to be entered into the record regarding development Route 5 South
 - b. Announcements — none
 - c. Updates
 - d.
 - i. Affordable Housing subcommittee has made further edits and approved the Housing Strategy. There is the question of how best to integrate the strategy into the housing chapter of the town plan. The upcoming meeting (7/29) will consider ways of engaging the public. The Strategy document will be on the Agenda for the August 29 PC meeting.
 - ii. Postcard Survey approximately 180 returns to date. An out-of-hours 'coding party' will be set after the August PC meeting (once tax bills have been paid) and thus the maximum number of surveys will be received

9. Other Business
 - a. Ciccotelli enquired as to when the 'policy-making' around the town plan will take place. Allen explained that the next step in the plan drafting process involves review of all the chapter outlines, where Goals, Policies and Actions will be reviewed. All commissioners will have the opportunity to contribute to all the chapters as we move towards a working draft.

Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm

APPROVED 8/29/19

Future Meetings:

Thursday, Aug 29, 7pm Regular Meeting
Thursday, Sept 26, 7pm Regular Meeting
Thursday, Sept 26, 7pm Regular Meeting
Thursday, Oct 24, 7pm Regular Meeting