

**NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 29, 2019, 7:00PM**  
Tracy Hall-Meeting Room

**Members Present:** Jaci Allen (Chair), Melissa Horwitz (Vice Chair), Leah Romano, Brian Loeb, Susan Brink, Ernie Ciccotelli, Jeff Lubell (by phone 7:20 to 7:55pm)

**Members not Present:** Jeff Goodrich

**Public:** Linda Cook, Anne Silberfarb, Peter Silberfarb

**Staff:** Rod Francis

Jaci Allen (Chair), called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

- 1) Approve Agenda: Horwitz moved and Loeb seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried 6 — 0
- 2) Meeting Objectives:
  1. Review draft of Housing Strategy
  2. Review draft of policies and action items for Town Plan chapters
  3. Review calendar for Town Plan feedback events
- 3) Review calendar for Town Plan feedback events  
Allen discussed the Draft **Fall Calendar of Public Input Events** [see item #6 in packet]

Of special note is the joint event organized with the Norwich Library presenting Paul Searls on his latest book, *Repeopling of Vermont: The paradox of Development in the Twentieth Century*, to be held at the **Norwich Library, Thursday, October 17, 6:30pm —8:00pm**

- 4) Review and approve Minutes 7-25-19  
Loeb moved and Romano seconded a motion to approve the minutes of 7-25-2019. Motion carried 6 — 0
- 5) Announcements, Reports, Updates & Correspondence
  1. Correspondence
    - i) Thetford Town Plan
    - ii) AT&T re Lary Lane
    - iii) Peter Gregory/TRORC dues thank you note
  2. Announcements
  3. Updates
    - i) Postcard Survey Update  
Allen provided a brief summary of the work completed so far to tabulate and analyze the responses to the postcard survey distributed with the last tax bill. The top four issues were i) taxes (too high), ii) Land Use, iii) Housing and iv) Transportation (including road issues, speeding, safety and transit). Commissioners discussed the significance and meaning of the results.
    - ii) TRORC Responsiveness Summary

- 6) Review draft of Housing Strategy. Lubell introduced and spoke to strategy document circulated in the meeting packet. Commissioners discussed the document.

Brink moved and Romano seconded a motion that the Commission circulate this version of the Housing Strategy in preparation for the Housing Workshop on September 12, and receive public comment.  
Motion carried 7 — 0

Lubell then outlined the September 12 Housing Strategy Workshop. The format will be small group discussion guided by three questions:

1. What do you see as the most important housing needs and challenges?
2. What are *your* questions about Affordable Housing in Norwich?
3. How do we connect housing to sustainability? (see non-binding Article 36 Town Meeting 2018)

- 7) Review drafts of policies and action items for Town Plan chapters  
Francis reviewed the Draft Objectives, Policies and Actions from the Land Use and Economic Development chapters as illustrations of how chapters of the Plan are inter-related. To avoid repetition and confusion Action items are not explicitly tied to single chapter objectives.

More Objectives, Policies and Actions for remaining chapters will be forthcoming.

- 8) Other Business

- 9) Future Meeting Schedule & Agendas  
For September 26 Agenda

- Event feedback
- Draft chapters for review:
  - Housing,
  - Land Use,
  - Community Facilities and Services
  - Transportation

- 10) Comments from the Public

**APPROVED 10-24-19**

**Future Meetings:**

Thursday, Sept 26, 7pm Regular Meeting  
Thursday, Oct 24, 7pm Regular Meeting  
**Thursday, Nov 14, 7pm Regular Meeting\***  
**Thursday, Dec 12, 7pm Regular Meeting\***  
**Thursday, Jan 9, 7pm Regular Meeting\***

\*Note: Adjusted holiday schedule dates