

NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2014, Tracy Hall

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Gray, Brink, Goodrich, Lubell, LaRowe

Members Absent: Johnson, Flynn

Clerk: Phil Dechert **Others:**

Tom Gray, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM.

1. **Agenda** – Approved with Vtrans Alternative Grant, Smart Commute, & Geraghty Appeal added.
2. **Minutes** – 7-24-14 –approved as read
3. **Announcements & Reports, Correspondence & Updates:**
 - a. Vtrans Transportation Alternatives Program – Grants available to municipalities for transportation related projects except for actual road building and maintenance. Eligible activities support alternative modes of transportation including bike and pedestrian facilities, and other highway related enhancements. The Town currently has two of these grants and will probably not apply until at least one of these is finished.
 - b. Smart Commute Program –Norwich’s participation in the Vital Communities Smart Commute program is an effort to reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles (SOV) for commuting through the use of alternative modes of transportation, ride sharing, and public transit. Implementation is by the Energy Committee and Planning Office.
 - c. Solar Project – Members reviewed an Application for a Certificate of Public Good to the Public Service Board for a US Route 5 North solar project on property owned by Norwich Associates. The applicant is Bill Bender, the installer is Solaflect Energy, and the net metered power will be credited to meters for town buildings including the school and library.
4. **Updates:**
 - a. Capital Facilities – Tom Gray reported the Capital Facilities Committee voted to recommend moving ahead with the existing fire/police site at their meeting on August 7th.
 - b. Norwich Pool –Dechert reported the Norwich Pool Dam restoration project is moving forward with meetings scheduled with the engineering company and fisheries biologist hired by the town, and later a meeting with state officials. Sampling of water temperatures at 7 locations along Charles Brown Brook and Blood Brook will continue into September.
5. **Route 5 South/River Road Mixed Use Project – RFQ**

Dechert presented a final draft RFQ incorporating suggested changes from Gray, Flynn and Lubell which were discussed and revised at the last meeting. The final draft was approved after a few changes. Jeff Lubell moved for the Clerk to distribute the RFQ potential consultants directly and through the VPA listserv. The motion was seconded by Jeff Goodrich and passed 5-0.

6. Zoning Regulation Amendments – Article VI Administration & Enforcement

Draft revisions to Article VI were presented by Dechert primarily based on issues identified in the 5 years since the last revision. Discussion and revisions focused on expiration of administrative permits and DRB decisions not implemented. Additional exemptions from development requiring a permit were added.

7. The August 28 and September 11 Regular Meetings have been cancelled and a meeting has been added on September 4th at 7 PM.

Adjournment 9:05 PM

Phil Dechert, Clerk

APPROVED 9/4/14

Future Meetings: Thursday, September 4, 2014 – 7 PM Regular Meeting

All Planning Commission agendas and minutes may be found at:
<http://norwich.vt.us/planning-commission/>