

NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 26, 2017, Tracy Hall

Regular Meeting

Members Present: Thoms, Horwitz, Lubell, Brien, Allen, Brink

Members Absent: Goodrich **Clerk:** Phil Dechert

Others: Stuart Richards, Marcia Calloway, Dean Seibert, Frank Manesek, Calli Guion, Dana Head, and others

Susan Brink, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

1. **Agenda** –Approved.
2. **Comments from the Public** – Stuart Richards expressed concern with the direction of the proposed changes in mixed use zoning towards larger projects.
3. **Minutes** –1-12-17 were approved with a minor change
4. **Announcements, Reports, Updates & Correspondence** – A letter was received from Tim McNamara, Associate Director Campus Services, Dartmouth College, regarding the Route 5 South/River Road Rezoning Proposal as it may apply to the “Lewiston” property owned by Dartmouth College. The Clerk will review the current draft proposal with him as it applies to non-residential development in the Mixed Use District and encourage him to attend the February 2nd Presentation.
5. **February 2nd (was January 24th) Presentation on Mixed Use Districts**
 - There was no further discussion on the content of the presentation
 - It was agreed to move the presentation from the multi-purpose meeting room to the Tracy Hall Gym at 7 PM on 2/2/17 if the gym is available [It is available]
6. **Town Plan Update Status**
 - **Energy Section** - A draft of revisions to the Energy Chapter and other related energy sections were distributed. The Planner will review these revisions with the Chair of the Energy Committee for additional comments. These changes are to bring the plan in compliance with the current statutory requirements. A second set of revisions related to siting of solar and wind facilities will be prepared for later adoption when necessary mapping and data has been developed by the regional commission.
 - **Facilities** – Information missing from the current town plan on the current condition and future needs for municipal buildings and other facilities will be prepared by the Planner with assistance of department heads and the Town Manager.
 - **Resiliency** – Draft changes were reviewed by Commission on January 12. One minor revision is needed.
 - **Land Use** – Preliminary revisions of sections related to land use changes were reviewed by the Commission on January 12 and will be revised by the consultant for the February 9th meeting.
 - **Schedule** – Draft revisions will be ready by February 23 for discussion at a March 2nd meeting.
7. **Other Business**
8. **Future Meeting Schedule & Agenda** (See Below)

9. Comments from the Public:

Several members of the public (mostly landowners in the areas under consideration for rezoning to mixed use) spoke about concerns with the proposed changes. Concerns included taking vitality from Village businesses, tax impacts, traffic, impact on wetlands, large multi-unit projects out of scale with the area, and fairness to residents already living in area.

Adjournment – 8:20 PM*APPROVED 2/9/17***Future Meetings:**

Thursday, February 2, 2017 – 7 PM Public Presentation on Mixed Use Districts

Thursday, February 9, 2017 – 7 PM Regular Meeting

Thursday, February 23, 2017 – No Meeting

Thursday, March 2, 2017 – Special Meeting – Review of Town Plan updates.(Tentative)

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