

Norwich PC Special Meeting Minutes 3/12/24

Members Present: Kris Clement, Vince Crow, Jeff Goodrich, Jaan Laaspere, Bob Pape

Public: Jeff Lubell, Linda Gray

Meeting Opened: 6:37 pm

1. Approve Agenda:

Goodrich moved, seconded Pape, to approve the agenda.

Motion passed 5-0

2. Public Comment on items not on the agenda

N/A

3. Correspondence

N/A

4. Chair Report

Mapping Initiative

Laaspere provided an update on the mapping initiative. GIS overlays for zoning districts, aquifer protection, ridgeline, shoreline and scenic areas can be added to have just one map. The issue will be further discussed in an upcoming Listers meeting.

AHSC Planning Grant

Jeff Lubell provided an update on the New Boston Road planning grant application to fund a feasibility study. There will be a PC Special Meeting on 3/19/24 to be a public hearing for input regarding the grant application and answering questions about the project. After the public hearing, the AHSC will ask the Selectboard on 3/27/24 for approval to apply for the planning grant. The only update from the application process is the need for outside administrative help to act as a project manager and grant administrative help instead of using town staff. The Town Manager and the AHSC sent out RFQ's and have selected a consultant to move forward with.

Connecticut River hydro relicensing comment period

Laaspere stated that comment period for the Connecticut River hydroelectric facility relicensing will end on 4/22/24. Goodrich stated the main concern regarding the town would be the changes in water levels and its effect on bank erosion and the potential need for bank stabilization. Pape volunteered to discuss the issue with the Conservation Commission and, if needed, develop a statement to be discussed at the next meeting.

Lamperti/ Eatnet preferred siting request

Laaspere stated the Lamperti/ Eatnet preferred siting request was approved by the Select Board.

5. Subcommittee Updates

Membership

The group had consensus that the PC will appoint subcommittee members and that the subcommittee will have at least five members, with at least one member of the PC. Each subcommittee needs to have a charter that is approved by the PC.

Multi-modal Transportation Subcommittee

Goodrich provided an update on the Multimodal Transportations subcommittee. He presented a draft for a charter (see attached) for approval at a future meeting. He stated that the subcommittee will work with the Town Manager to coordinated volunteers with staff support for community projects such as walkways and bike paths. Crow stated that he is in the process of collecting pertinent maps and plans regarding sidewalks, bike lanes and public transportation. from the TRORC and the Norwich Fire District.

Solar Siting Subcommittee

The group had consensus to revise the town plan to remove the word “default” from the preferred siting designation and replaced it with language that is appropriate and more specific, with the Solar Siting subcommittee developing a draft.

6. Planning and Zoning Staff

Laaspere stated that the posting for the open position is still on the town website. The group had consensus for the Chair to discuss revising the position to ZA with the Town Manager and discuss at a future meeting.

7. Capital Planning

The group discussed the potential of a Capitol Improvement Planning subcommittee and its importance to the town, citing Select Board collaboration as a priority. The chair will reach out to the Town Manager and the Select Board to discuss need and how the PC can offer assistance.

The group had consensus to move items 8 and 9 of the agenda to a future meeting.

10. Public Comment

N/A

11. Adjourn

Goodrich moved, seconded by Crow, to adjourn the meeting

Motion passed 5-0

AHSC Planning Grant Public Hearing -- 3/19/24 at 7:00 pm at Tracy Hall (also accessible via Zoom)

Future PC Regular Meeting – 4/9/24 at 6:30 pm at Tracy Hall (also accessible via Zoom)

Minutes by Vincent Crow on 3/14/24

MMTSC Charter - Draft

Overview

- Assist the PC with gathering and understanding documentation related to multimodal facilities for vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, and bus facilities in Town, in adjacent towns, and in our region.
- Assist the PC with capital considerations for multi-modal facilities.
- Assist the PC with prioritizing multi-modal facility planning, implementation, and maintenance.

Agency Coordination in Concert with the PC

- Work with Town staff to assemble and assess information related to multimodal facility projects, implementation, and maintenance.
- Work with neighboring towns to assemble and assess information related to multimodal facility projects, implementation, and maintenance.
- Work with regional planning commissions serving neighboring towns to assemble and assess information related to multimodal facility projects, implementation, and maintenance.
- Work with the Norwich Fire District to assemble and assess information related to multimodal facility projects, implementation, and maintenance.
- Work with the PC to address multimodal consideration.