

Norwich PC Regular Meeting Minutes 5/14/24

Members Present: Chrisitan Spalding, Mary Gorman, Vince Crow, Jeff Goodrich, Jaan Laaspere, Bob Pape, Ernie Ciccotelli

Public: Jay Benson

Meeting Opened: 6:30 pm

**1. Approve Agenda:**

Goodrich moved, seconded by Crow, to approve the agenda.

***Motion passed 7-0***

**2. Organizational Meeting**

Goodrich moved, seconded by Gorman, to nominate Laaspere for PC Chair

***Motion passed 7-0***

Laaspere moved, seconded by Ciccotelli, to nominate Goodrich for PC Vice-Chair

***Motion passed 7-0***

Goodrich moved, seconded by Ciccotelli, to nominate Crow for PC Clerk

***Motion passed 7-0***

The group had consensus that the new and existing members read and familiarize themselves with the following information:

- Link to the Planning Commission webpage for the recent minutes, packets, the PC Bylaws, the Town Plan and the Zoning Regulations and Subdivision Regulations at: <http://norwich.vt.us/planning-commission/>
- Link to Conflict of Interest Policy from the SB webpage:  
<http://norwich.vt.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/ConflictOfInterestSigned27Feb2019.pdf>
- Link to Vermont Open Meeting Law Subchapter 2 Sections 310-314: [General Provisions \(vermont.gov\)](http://www.vermont.gov)
- [Title 24: Municipal And County Government Chapter 117: Municipal And Regional Planning And Development](http://www.vermont.gov) Title 24, Chapter 117 <http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/24/117>

**3. Public Comment on items not on the agenda**

No Comments

**4. Correspondence**

No Comments

## 5. Goals and Priorities for 2024

Laaspere stated that the work done by the PC subcommittees should reflect the priorities of the PC. Gorman stated that the Solar Siting Subcommittee continues to develop solar specific proposed edits to the Town Plan. The group discussed priorities of the Affordable Housing Subcommittee. Goodrich recommended engaging the RPC for items in the Land Use Regulations that need to be updated along with updating Zoning and Subdivision regulations that may limit options of the AHSC. Goodrich requested that a discussion of infrastructure corridor to be a future agenda item. Pape recommended revisiting completing FEMA's Community Rating System flood preparedness certification.

## 6. Subcommittee Updates

### *Membership*

Laaspere provided an update on the SB proposed handbook and the ongoing discuss of which body can appoint subcommittee members. This has not been voted on by the SB and the handbook issue will be revisited after edits. Quarterly reporting to the selectboard was discussed and will be set as a future agenda item.

AHSC updates will need to be added to future agendas.

Spalding and Ciccotelli volunteered to work with town staff to update the town website to accurately provide information for each subcommittee.

### *Capital Planning Subcommittee*

The group discussed ways to identify and prioritize items to be covered by the Capital Planning Subcommittee. Consensus was met to set an agenda item for the next meeting to brainstorm everything that could be involved with capital planning and prioritize what is the most pertinent to the PC.

### *Solar Siting Subcommittee*

The group had consensus that the subcommittee can choose a new chair at the next meeting.

Gorman provided an update, stating that she was able to convert the Town Plan to a Word document and able to find the guidelines in place regarding solar siting. Along with these and state policies, the goal is to develop a rubric that would easily communicate items to look for in order to determine feasibility of a solar site. In recent meetings the group walked through changes that define steep slopes and make it consistent with the town plan and zoning regulations. The group is about halfway through the revisions and will present to the PC in the future.

**7. Approve Minutes**

Goodrich moved, seconded by Pape, to approve minutes for 2/13/24 and 4/9/24.

***Motion passed 5-0 (Spalding and Gorman abstained)***

**8. Public Comment**

Jay Benson, regarding solar siting, stated the importance of providing the facts to the public in a consistent manner and allowing individuals to interpret the issue once everyone has the same information.

**11. Adjourn**

Goodrich moved, seconded by Ciccotelli, to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion passed 7-0**

**Future PC Regular Meeting – 6/11/24 at 6:30 pm at Tracy Hall (also accessible via Zoom)**

Minutes by Vincent Crow on 5/17/24