

Norwich PC Regular Meeting Minutes 6/11/24

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

Public: None

Meeting Opened: 6:32 pm

1. Approve Agenda:

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

Motion passed 7-0

2. Public comment for items not on agenda

No Comments

3. Correspondence

The PC acknowledged receiving the correspondence

4. PC Goals and Priorities for 2024

Laaspere provided an update on the mapping initiative. The interactive map on the Lister's website now includes multiple layers and the next step is to link to the map on the PC website. Creating a mechanism to print out physical copies was briefly discussed. *(Future agenda item)*

Laaspere provided an update on the status of the open staff position. After another round of posting the job listing, 2 qualified applicants have applied. The group had consensus to meet soon via zoom for a special meeting to discuss candidates in an executive session and provide a recommendation if appropriate.

The group discussed goals for the year, including zoning by-laws relating to housing density and other bylaw changes.

Goodrich discussed focusing on looking at the zoning bylaws to allow multifamily housing and mixed use in existing buildings where it is currently not allowed.

Ciccotelli stated that there should be more focus on forest block and conservation.

The group discussed the complicated task of balancing the need for new housing while preserving the character of the town.

Laaspere recommended using the state's list of objectives as a starting point then prioritize that to determine the focus of the PC this year. *(Future agenda item)*

5. Subcommittee Updates

Website

Spalding provided an update on the PC website. He worked with staff to develop a template for the PC website along with pages for each subcommittee to provide accuracy and consistency. Each page will provide information about the subcommittee as well as pertinent resources related to ongoing projects. Each subcommittee would be responsible for keeping the resources up to date.

Subcommittee appointment

The group discussed the SB seeking counsel regarding subcommittee creation and appointments and is awaiting a legal opinion. Goodrich noted that the PC has a precedent in creating and appointing subcommittees.

Solar Siting Subcommittee

Gorman provided an update, stating that the subcommittee has developed proposed changes to the town plan that provide clarity, specifically regarding changes in regulations and reviews process. The intention is to make the language more useful in a legal setting. The edits were included in the packet and on the town list serve, as well as online which tracks changes. Public input is welcome and encouraged, and the edits will be discussed at the next Solar Siting Subcommittee meeting, then discussed with the PC. (*Future agenda item*)

Capital Planning Subcommittee

The group discussed ways to identify and prioritize items to be covered by the Capital Planning Subcommittee and the best starting point. These priorities can be discussed along with PC goals for 2024.

Affordable Housing

Goodrich provided an update of the subcommittee's recent activity, including housing and community outreach, advising funding for ADU's and discussed zoning changes to promote affordable housing.

6. Approve Minutes

Goodrich moved, seconded by Ciccotelli, to approve minutes for 4/16/24 with the change of adding Crow as a member of the public.

Motion passed 5-0 (Spalding and Goodrich abstained)

Goodrich moved, seconded by Ciccotelli, to approve minutes for 5/14/24

Motion passed 7-0

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjourn

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

Motion passed 7-0

Future PC Regular Meeting – 7/9/24 at 6:30 pm at Tracy Hall (also accessible via Zoom)

Note: Recording of the meeting did not start until 7:25 pm.

Minutes by Vincent Crow on 6/14/24