

## Norwich PC Regular Meeting Minutes 7/9/24

Members Present: Christian Spalding, Mary Gorman, Vince Crow, Jeff Goodrich, Jaan Laaspere, Ernie Ciccotelli

Public: Jenn Goulet, Joy Kenseth, Rob Gere, Pam Piper

Meeting Opened: 6:32 pm

### **1. Approve Agenda:**

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

***Motion passed 6-0***

### **2. Public comment for items not on agenda**

Goulet stated that she was happy to see members of the PC at the PUC site walkthrough for the Upper Loveland proposed solar site and was shocked at the proposed limits of the clearcut. She expressed concern that the project is not promoting the health and safety of the community and residence.

Kenseth expressed concern about the Upper Loveland project, being a resident under the deepest part of the clear cuts, with the project creating flooding and tree damage.

### **3. Correspondence**

Laaspere stated that information about an upcoming Vermont League of Cities & Towns event was included in the packet.

### **4. PC Goals and Priorities for 2024**

Laaspere provided an update on recent Open Meeting Law changes, clarifying hybrid and remote meeting options for advisory and non-advisory boards. This means that the PC is required to have hybrid meetings and subcommittees are allowed to meet Zoom only.

Laaspere provided an update on the status of the open staff position. The position was offered to 2 candidates, both of whom turned down the offer. The group had consensus to discuss the option of reevaluating the job title and description. *(Future Agenda Item)*

Laaspere stated that the AHSC planning grant application was denied on merit, including reasons regarding site location outside of the village center and lack of bus service. He stated the AHSC is to take action to address some of the issues, such as reaching out to Advanced Transit about modifying routes.

Laaspere provided an update about the PUC site visit for Upper Loveland and stated that the PUC ruled that it was not necessary for a reapproval letter from the PC and Selectboard.

Laaspere stated that the listers asked the PC to address the issue regarding the necessity of permits to merge lots. (Future agenda item)

#### **5. Subcommittee Process**

The group discussed the recent legal opinion which stated the Selectboard must appoint members of both advisory and non-advisory boards. Laaspere stated that he will attend the next Selectboard meeting and suggest modifying the bylaws to legally continue with the current paradigm of appointing subcommittee membership without Selectboard intervention.

#### **6. Solar Siting subcommittee report – Proposed town plan edits**

Gorman provided an update on the proposed town plan edits, with the result of the Town Plan acting as an Enhanced Energy Plan. Since the zoning laws are not included in the review process and the current Town Plan is not clear, the edits aim to create clarity and align the Town Plan with state regulations and goals.

The group discussed options for designating preferred sites. In order to meet solar goals by 2050, approximately 60 acres are needed to be used as solar sites. Other items discussed included site plan review for future projects and including referencing pertinent zoning regulations that could give guidance in the Town Plan so they can be used in the review process. The PC had consensus to research regulations that would be specific for criteria of project review.

#### **7. PC Goals and Priorities**

Goals related to Solar Siting, updating zoning regulations with the AHSC, and capital planning have been discussed previously. Specific consensus on goals will be discussed at the next meeting. *(Future Agenda Item)*

#### **8. Approve Minutes for 6/11/24 and 6/13/24**

Goodrich moved, seconded by Ciccotelli, to approve minutes  
***Motion passed 6-0***

#### **9. Public Comment**

N/A

#### **10. Adjourn**

Goodrich moved, seconded by Ciccotelli, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm  
***Motion passed 6-0***

**Future PC Regular Meeting – 8/13/24 at 6:30 pm at Tracy Hall (also accessible via Zoom)**

Minutes by Vincent Crow on 7/12/24