

NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2009

Tracy Hall - Meeting Room

Members Present: Daniel Johnson, Richard Stucker, Brooke Adler, Ralph Hybels, Tom Gray, Jeff Goodrich

Members Absent: Jaye Pershing Johnson

Clerk: Phil Dechert **Others:** Terry Boone

Daniel Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Approve Agenda – Agenda was approved by **unanimous consent**.

2. Comments from the Public – Terry Boone appeared to thank the Planning Commission for their successful participation at “Town Eating Day.” The Planning Commission had the largest break-out session group and a lively discussion.

3. Announcements & Correspondence –

A letter was received from the “Town Eating Day” Committee thanking the Planning Commission for their participation and requesting participation next year on February 27th.

A flyer for a “Summer Retreat” for planning commissioners on June 5th & 6th was distributed.

Tom Gray led the Commission in a scratchy version of “Happy Birthday” in honor of Richard Stucker.

4. Minutes – February 26, 2009 minutes approved by **unanimous consent** with one minor change.

5. Town Plan –

Status Report – Dechert presented a summary sheet with the status of each chapter.

Review of draft Chapters - Chapter 8 Land Use

Edits made to the Land Use section based on discussion at the last meeting were reviewed and modified and review continued of the goals and action sections.

The Transportation Chapter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Major Goals - A discussion ensued regarding the overall goals of the town plan regarding “smart growth,” carbon footprint, sustainability, and the town’s role in the region. There is a strong connection between policies related to land use, transportation, energy, and quality of life that may need to be the subject of an independent chapter. Members agreed to discuss these major goals at the next meeting.

Based on comments at the “Town Eating Day” session, the commission was reminded of the importance of providing support and justification in the town plan of all provisions of the land use regulations (zoning and subdivision).

6. Inclusionary Zoning -

Members agreed to submit any changes or comments on the March 10th IZ Draft to Dechert by March 20th. The Commission will hold a public workshop at the April 23rd meeting to discuss the Inclusionary Zoning Draft with the public.

7. Other business -

Gray read an email from Nancy Osgood regarding the implementation of the Historic Resources section of the town plan. A copy of the email will be sent to members.

Adjournment – 9:50 PM

Phil Dechert

Approved 3/26/09

Future Meetings:

Thursday, March 26 at 7 PM – Regular Meeting &
7:15 PM Hearing on Zoning Amendments
Thursday, April 9 at 7 PM – Regular Meeting