

NORWICH PLANNING COMMISSION  
Tuesday June 14, 2022, 6:30pm

MINUTES

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Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89339717735>

Meeting ID: 893 3971 7735

Members Present: Jaci Allen, Brian Loeb, Ernie Ciccotelli, Melissa Horwitz, Jeff Goodrich, Vince Crow, Marc Aquila

Public Present: Linda Cook, Linda Gray

Staff: Rod Francis

Meeting Opened: 6:36pm

**1. Approve Agenda:**

Goodrich moved and Loeb seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried 4-2-1. For: Allen, Loeb, Horwitz, Aquila. Against: Ciccotelli, Goodrich. Abstain: Crow.

- 2. Public Comment:** Linda Gray of the Energy Committee commented that she had information on how to draft zoning regulations responsive to energy targets. Goodrich asked that the information be circulated to the whole commission. Goodrich stated that the agenda was too big to address but that the commission must be guided by Vermont Statutes Annotated (VSA) and that Rod Francis has a conflict of interest because of his current role as an employee of the Town of Norwich (Town Manager) as distinct from being an employee of the Town of Norwich (Planning Director).

**3. General Section of Land Use Regulations**

Goodrich suggested that the Planning Commission develop proposed LUR changes and that at a minimum a subcommittee be formed to review the contents of staff provided draft LUR language.

Horwitz responded that the Open Meeting Law (OML) requirements made this idea impractical. Goodrich disagreed with this perspective and pointed to the Affordable Housing Subcommittee as the basis for their comments.

Goodrich stated that he wanted to spend more time looking at all the potential uses allowed for in Norwich.

Chair Allen asked commissioners what their expectations were for the July meeting. Commissioners suggested a higher-level discussion of specific things they wanted to see in the new regulations and a conceptual overview of zoning districts

**4. Wastewater Feasibility Study Steering Committee nomination**

Goodrich moved and Loeb seconded a motion to recommend to the Selectboard the nomination of Marc Aquila as a member of the wastewater feasibility study steering committee. Goodrich expressed opposition based on process. Motion carried 6-1. For: Allen, Loeb, Horwitz, Ciccotelli, Crow, Aquila. Against: Goodrich.

**5. Scoping Document for Sidewalks, Trails, Bike Paths Master Plan**

Commissioners discussed potential changes to the document including i) adding a representative from the Fire District and ii) researching the history of Norwich sidewalks. Commissioners expressed a preference for a standing committee to be formed (similar to the Affordable Housing Subcommittee).

**6. Announcements, Reports, Updates, and Correspondence**

Loeb updated the meeting after the successful public outreach process. The subcommittee is eager to pursue analysis of the Fire District lands on Beaver Meadow RD and is investigating the suitability of a Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) to fund the analysis of the DPW parcel on New Boston RD. Francis reported that he hoped to advertise the Planner position soon.

**7. Approve Minutes of April 12, 2022, and May 10, 2022**

Loeb moved and Ciccotelli seconded a motion to approve the April 12, 2022, minutes. Motion carried 5-0-1. For Allen, Loeb, Ciccotelli, Crow, Aquila. Against: Goodrich, Abstain: Horwitz.

Aquila moved and Ciccotelli seconded a motion to approve the May 10, 2022, minutes. Motion carried 6-0. For: Allen, Loeb, Horwitz, Ciccotelli, Crow, Aquila.

**8. Other Business:** none

**9. Future Meeting Schedule**

June – Scoping Document for Paths and trails Committee

**10. Comments from the Public:** none

**11. Meeting adjourned: 8:27pm**

**Future Meetings:**

**Tuesday, July 12, Regular Meeting**

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Francis

APPROVED 09-13-2022