

Norwich PC Minutes -11/07/23

Members Present: Ernie Ciccotelli, Vince Crow, Jeff Goodrich, Stuart Richards, Jaan Laaspere, Bob Pape

Public: Elissa Close, Robert Gere, Paul Manganiello, Creigh Moffatt, Brian Loeb, Jeff Lubell

Meeting Opened: 6:34 pm

1. Approve Agenda:

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

Motion passed via consensus

2. Public Comment on items not on the agenda

N/A

3. Correspondence

4. Chair Report

Laaspere discussed an upcoming meeting organized by the Connecticut River Conservancy regarding the relicensing of the nearby dams on the Connecticut River. Ciccotelli volunteered to attend on 11/9/2023

Pape moved, seconded by Richards, that the Multi-Modal Transportation subcommittee will complete and submit the VT AOT survey regarding a Highway 5 Bicycle Corridor, and convey support from the PC for the concept.

Laaspere gave an update on P&Z documents, stating that if the documents were already in a packet they can be uploaded to the website. He also encouraged PC members to visit the towns website to view documents at the bottom of the webpage including "Current Regulations," "Work in Progress," "Topics," "References," and "Subcommittee Material" and provide feedback about this configuration.

Laaspere stated that the SB is developing a draft of a Selectboard Handbook, defining the Town governance and Charters.

Laaspere stated that the Thetford PC recently updated their zoning bylaws and could be a good source of information.

5. Planning and Zoning Staff

Laaspere stated that he, Jack Candon and Maricia Calloway are developing a one-page proposal for the open position. The group had consensus to generally support the job position as described but with an emphasis that the role will be under the guidance of the PC and that the PC is open to develop a name change.

6. AHSC Joint Session – New Boston Rd Planning Grant Application

Lubell discussed the proposed planning grant application, which is for \$60,000, to be used to investigate the feasibility of development of affordable housing on the site. He also stated that the lot is town owned land, removed from the transfer station and at this point the plan it to get more information about the site. The grant would cover wetland analysis, conceptual planning, schematic design, archeological assessments, market study, legal services and surveying, and general administration. The Town would be responsible for \$6,000 which can include volunteer work or donations. The site has the potential for about 1.5 acres of land for development, with the potential for 6-9 units.

The AHSC endorsed the draft application for submission to the SB before the April application deadline.

Richards expressed concerns that the cost associated with the planning grant is too high.

Richards moved, seconded by Goodrich, that the PC to submit the application to the selectboard with the full support of the PC, granted that the AHSC and PC will be involved with the selection, engagement, and management of the project, including cost considerations.

Motion passed 6-0

7. PC Annual Report

The group discussed the draft of the PC Annual Report.

Consensus was met that the chair will update the draft based off the discussion and submit it to the SB.

8. Subcommittee Updated

The Multi-Modal Transportation subcommittee will collect opinions to be included in the upcoming survey and submit the survey by the end of November.

The Solar Siting subcommittee has an upcoming meeting to discuss ridgelines and scenic views.

The next PC meeting will include an agenda item discussing the charter and membership of the Land Use subcommittee.

9. Approve minutes

Goodrich moved, seconded by Ciccotelli, to approve the 10/10/23, 9/19/23, and 9/12/23 meeting minutes.

Motion passed 5-0 (Richards abstained)

10. Adjourn

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

Motion passed 6-0

Future PC Meeting – 12/12/23 at 6:30pm at Tracy Hall (also accessible via Zoom)

Minutes by Vincent Crow on 11/10/23