

Norwich PC Minutes 12/12/23 – APPROVED 02-13-2024

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

Public: N/A

Meeting Opened: 6:33 pm

1. Approve Agenda:

Goodrich moved, seconded Clement, to approve the agenda.

Motion passed 7-0

2. Public Comment on items not on the agenda

N/A

3. Correspondence

Laaspere stated that the AHSC proposed planning grant application was submitted to the SB for approval.

4. Chair Report

Laaspere stated that planning and zoning documents as well as reference files continue to be added to the planning section of the town website and that it appears to be an effective solution moving forward, garnering support from the SB and the Town Manager.

Laaspere stated that the job listing for Zoning Administrator has a deadline of 12/14/23 for applications. At the time of the meeting there were no applicants.

Goodrich suggested that the chair reach out to Tom Yennerel, who has helped nearby towns in the past regarding similar open positions.

Laaspere stated the importance of improving maps in the zoning bylaws as they are tools for the PC and DRB. The two options for improved maps would be to use an overlay of the listers map, New England Municipal Resource Center (NEMRC) or to use data from the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI).

The PC Chair will discuss the two options with TRORC and have a concrete proposal for the next step by the January PC meeting, which was supported by the group via consensus.

Ciccotelli stated that it is a good time to encourage the Town Clerk to digitize archives and make all files available online, which would enable creation of advanced maps easier.

Goodrich and Richards both expressed frustration that the public files are difficult to access in person and that rules regarding scheduled appointments should be changed.

The group discussed developing an editable Word document version of the Town Plan, but the original documents are unavailable.

Goodrich recommended that in the future TRORC should maintain the base data.

5. Land Use Subcommittee

Consensus was met that each subcommittee should have a focused project in order to stay on task.

The group discussed updating certain ambiguous language in the Town Plan and Zoning Regulations when necessary, in order to stay current with recently updated laws as well as aid the DRB in their role.

Laaspere recommended looking at the recently updated zoning regulations in Thetford as a guide.

The PC will review recommendations from Kyle Katz (included in the packet) regarding suggested changes to the Town Plan and discuss them at the next meeting.

6. Subcommittee Updated

The Multi-Modal Transportation subcommittee and the PC chair submitted the AOT survey regarding the Route 5 Bicycle Corridor on 11/17/23, indicating that the PC is supportive of a future planning study and that improving bicycling conditions on Route 5 is very important. The MMTSC will determine a 6 month plan in an upcoming meeting.

The Solar Siting Subcommittee will develop an Enhanced Energy Plan that will modify the Town Plan to align with current regulations. It will be a long process and will provide regular updates.

7. Approve minutes

Goodrich moved, seconded by Pape to approve the 11/7/23 meeting minutes with changes discussed.

Motion passed 6-0 (Clement abstained)

8. Adjourn

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

Motion passed 7-0

Future PC Meeting – 1/9/24 at 6:30pm at Tracy Hall (also accessible via Zoom)

Minutes by Vincent Crow on 12/14/23