

NEWPORT CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles Elliott, Clark Curtis, Jennifer Leithead, Dan Ross, Woodman Page

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John Ward, Colleen Moore de Ortiz, Pam Ladds

7:05 p.m. Chair Charles Elliott called the meeting to order. Clark Curtis moved to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2014 hearing. This was seconded by Dan Ross.

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.

Dan Ross moved to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2014 meeting. This was seconded by Clark Curtis. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

7:12 p.m. MUNICIPAL PLAN HEARING UPDATE DISCUSSION. Jennifer Leithead arrived and took over taking of the minutes. Charles Elliott has gone over comments from NVDA and made some changes. In the Recommendations section, items 14 and 15 were added as recommended by NVDA. In addition, add "City" as part of "Newport *City* Renaissance Corp."

In the Transportation section, a paragraph was added on the top of the second page regarding Complete Streets guidelines. A bicycle/pedestrian section was added near the end, as well as brief mention of a national bus line to the last paragraph of the Bus Service section.

In the Police/Law Enforcement section, mention of prescription drug dropboxes (24/7 in the Newport Police Department and during business hours at the Orleans County Sheriff's Department) was added.

In the Schools section, the requested changes to the Newport City Elementary and Safe Routes to Schools information were made.

In the Health section, a section was added regarding the Office of Local Health of the VT Dept. of Health, as requested. In addition, "Newport City is committed to fostering the health and well-being of all residents" will be added to the Policies section.

The Commission then discussed the wording for the AARP Age-Friendly City designation. Jennifer Leithead stated that she believed that the designation is important and very positive for the city, but understood the importance of the wording. She read the suggested changes to the section, which were agreed upon by the Commission and those present. The Commission then discussed the purpose of the City Plan. John Ward cautioned against wording requiring mixed income housing; the Commission read through the Age-Friendly City wording and the housing section, and agreed upon the wording. Under the Housing strategy, the Age-Friendly City designation will be made into its own heading.

Clark Curtis asked about a comment on the NVDA report about the Flood Hazard section and a comment about potential liability of the city; Mr. Elliott will change "will not" to "should not" in the last sentence of the first paragraph. In addition, a link to the hundred year flood maps online should be included in the plan.

In the garden section, Green Mountain Farm to School will be added. NEKCA, NEKHS and others will also be added to the Health section.

The Commission discussed Columbia Forest Products as well and noted that as a large employer, it should be mentioned. It is mentioned on p. 65 in the Energy section, and is also mentioned on p. 26 in the 2nd paragraph, though they are not mentioned by name. The Commission will change this to include their name.

Clark Curtis then asked if another Planning Commission hearing was necessary; Charles Elliott did not think so, as the comments are not changing direction or intent but adding missing community items.

The Flood resilience section needs language clarification; Dan Ross and Charles Elliott will work on this.

In addition, the Historic District should be included; Woodman Page will work on this. John Ward passed a binder for Mr. Page to borrow on the District; he will use this to add a section to the Introduction.

The NVDA report mentioned accessory apartments; Jen Leithead will add this wording to the Housing section.

Mr. Elliott noted that he would like to try to finish wording changes by next week in order to send to the Council. He and others will continue to work on maps throughout the process.

8:44 p.m. OTHER BUSINESS. None.

8:45 p.m. NEXT MEETING. The next meeting will be January 13, 2015, at 7 pm in the City Council room.

8:15 p.m. Dan Ross made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Clark Curtis.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.

Minutes taken and transcribed by Jennifer Leithead.

Approved: Charles A. Elliott Date: 02-13-2015