

NEWPORT CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

January 17th 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clark Curtis, Vice Chair Robert Currier, Woodman Page and Dan Ross.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Zoning Administrator (ZA) Charles Elliott, Pam Ladds and Brian McNeal.

8:17 p.m. Chair Clark Curtis called the meeting to order. Vice Chair Robert Currier moved to approve the minutes of the January 3rd, 2017 meeting. This was seconded by Dan Ross. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

8:18 p.m. Review the Proposed Amendment to the Animal Bylaw: ZA Elliott stated that there was one update to the document which was to change a word from leased to leashed in paragraph three, line five. Pam Ladds spoke of her work with the Felines and Friends which is an organization devoted to keeping the cat population under control. The concern was for cats that are spayed or neutered and released back into the environment could then be captured and cause further problems by filling up shelters. Another concern by Pam Ladds was that the proposed Animal Bylaw did not take into consideration previous requests that the waste storage and removal section be revised to reflect uses for composting and upcoming changes in Vermont's landfill regulations. Chair Curtis and Dan Ross discussed how the Animal Bylaw had been held up by the City's Attorneys who were to write the verbiage related to the enforcement section. It was determined that an ordinance was the way to move forward. ZA Elliott recommended tabling the issue. Vice Chair Currier moved to table changes for the Animal Bylaw indefinitely. This was seconded by Dan Ross. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

8:33 p.m. Review the Zoning on the North Side of East Main Street from Sunset Terrace to Sias Avenue: Dan Ross began by stating that there is very little commercial property remaining within the city. If one were to examine the requirements for the size and required setbacks for residential property in section three of the Zoning Bylaw that it would show that a number of these lots are currently being used for commercial purposes and will eventually end up smaller than they currently are. The map of the area was reviewed and showed that the area would be better served under Form Based Code along with setbacks. ZA Elliott stated that there is a lot to review and the conversation has begun and will continue on this subject matter. Vice Chair Currier moved to table the review for future discussions. This was seconded by Dan Ross. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

8:54 p.m. Election of Officers: Dan Ross recommended and moved that stated individuals be considered for the following positions: Clark Curtis as Chair, Robert

Currier as Vice Chair and Woodman Page as Clerk. This was seconded by Robert Currier. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

8:55 p.m. Other Business: ZA Elliott stated that the following Bylaw Amendments: Changing the Zone From Industrial to Commercial-B For Properties Fronting on East Main Street, Certificate of Occupancy, and the Shore Land Control District must now go forward to hearings. It was explained that there must be a fifteen day warning period and that there would be plenty of time for this to take place prior to the Planning Commission's next meeting. The hearings will take place on February 7th and depending on time there may be an opportunity for commission members to conduct interviews for applications to the Planning Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission.

ZA Elliott also presented a letter received that took issue with the retail only zoning provision on Main Street. Chair Curtis inquired whether the merchant would receive a permit for the business in question which ZA Elliott stated that in this situation the merchant would. No further action was required.

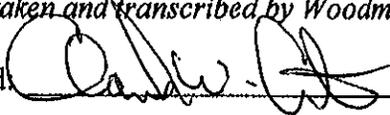
On January 30th, Robert Currier will represent the Planning Commission at a Symposium entitled, Conversations of Hope Facing Addiction. Robert Currier will report on his findings at the next planning meeting.

9:03 p.m Next Meeting: The next meeting will be scheduled for February 7th, 2017, at 7p.m. The agenda will consist of: 1. Call to Order, 2. Approve Minutes of 17 January, 3. Hearings, 4. Discussion of Hearings Following Closure, 5. As Time Permits- Interview candidates with possible Executive Session, 6. Other Business, 7. Set Date and Agenda for Next Meeting, 8. Adjourn.

9:05 p.m. Vice Chair Currier made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Woodman Page. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

Minutes taken and transcribed by Woodman Page

Approved: _____



Date: _____

2-7-17