

NEWPORT CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
MARCH 25th, 2014

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: none

OTHERS PRESENT: PAUL DREHER, ZA; Anne Chiarello, Pam Ladds

7:10 p.m. Chair Charles Elliott called the meeting to order. Clark Curtis moved to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2014 meeting as written. This was seconded by Jennifer Black. Woodman Page abstained from the vote. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

7:11 p.m. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Clark Curtis noted that he would like to vote individually for officers instead of a group in the past; the Commission agreed. Clark Curtis moved to approve Charles Elliott as Chair of the Planning Commission. This was seconded by Jennifer Black. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.** Woodman Page moved to approve Clark Curtis as Vice Chair of the Planning Commission. This was seconded by Jennifer Black. Clark Curtis abstained from the vote. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.** Clark Curtis moved to approve Jennifer Black as clerk. This was seconded by Woodman Page. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.** Jennifer Black asked the ZA, Paul Dreher, if he would assist in the clerk's duties; Paul Dreher agreed. The Commission then welcomed Dan Ross.

7:15 p.m. MUNICIPAL PLAN UPDATES. The Commission agreed to call the portions of the plan "Appendices" instead of "Chapters" as it currently has. Chair Charles Elliott has looked at Derby's plan and likes their format for appendices. Some appendices need to be added to the plan, including Floodplain and Stormwater and possibly one on Newport City Renaissance Corp. The Commission then discussed FEMA maps; the ones the city currently has are old and unreadable, but new maps were required for the relicensing of the sewer treatment plant, so the city has access to those. The ZA also has updated maps in color for the plan. Jennifer Black will send the link to the Google doc to Dan Ross and resend it to the rest of the Commission, as well as John Ward. Mr. Elliott also noted that he is responsible for the sections at the front and asked for assistance from the rest of the Commission with them.

7:34 p.m. OTHER BUSINESS. The City Council did not vote on their hearing regarding the bylaw changes as it wasn't warned in their agenda. Members of the audience who had been at the Council meeting updated the Commission; John Wilson and Paul Monette did not like that the Commission had sent the wording to them but did not recommend passing it. The ZA had put the full packet in the Council's boxes, but the Council admitted to not reading them. The ZA will give it to them again for the next meeting. Dan Ross asked about the way the height change was incorporated, so the Commission passed the wording along to him.

Clark Curtis noted that the website is still not functioning properly, with the exception of the City Council section. The Agenda for tonight's meeting was updated, but the minutes have not been updated yet.

Pam Ladds brought up her concern with the process by which new members of the Commission are appointed. She is especially concerned with the perceived conflict of interest with having a DRB member also on the Planning Commission. Clark Curtis noted that his opinion is to deal with any potential conflict on a case by case basis and believes that the connection with the DRB inherently doesn't propose a conflict. Mr. Elliott noted that when Bill Stenger and the Jay Peak developments come in to explain their proposals to the Commission, what they present is inherently going to be different than what will be permitted simply because of the nature of architecture and engineering. Clark Curtis asked Ms. Ladds what she sees as a conflict; her response was partly based on the Maplefields incidents. Mr. Curtis noted that Mr. Ross came back to the Commission with updates and changes following the permit and hearings. Charles Elliott explained the history behind Zoning Boards of Adjustment, Development Review Boards and Planning Commissions. The Commission agreed that feedback from the DRB when they are interpreting the bylaw is very valuable.

The ZA will call Gail Aloisio with NVDA regarding rescheduling her visit.

The Commission will work to have a final draft of the Plan by the end of August, which roughly works out to each member working on one appendix per month to have them completed by the end of July.

8:04 p.m. NEXT MEETING. The next meeting will be April 8 at 7 p.m. in the City Council room.

8:10 p.m. Jennifer Black made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Clark Curtis.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.

Minutes taken and transcribed by Jennifer Black.

Approved: Charles Elliott Date: 04-08-14