

NEWPORT CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

April 18th, 2017

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth Sproull.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Paul Monette, Zoning Administrator (ZA) Charles Elliott, Stan Chop, and Pam Ladds.

7:05 p.m. Chair Clark Curtis officially called the Planning Commission meeting to order. Minutes of April 4th, 2017 were reviewed. Dan Ross then moved to approve the minutes of April 4th, 2017. This was seconded by Vice Chair Robert Currier.

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.

7:07 p.m. Review Dan Ross' Report on Boundary Line Adjustment: Dan Ross gave specific examples where there have been merged lots which have been carried out through the subdivision regulations as lot line adjustments. Dan Ross put forward a proposal where he feels that it would be more accurate to call it a merger. The change would affect Section 604 and the report provides the change to be considered at a later date. Dan Ross also provided a Clear Sight Triangle illustration that could be included within Section 432 B Fences, Walls and Hedges for guidance on restrictions that property owners cannot obstruct the clear view of traffic on streets, sidewalks, or driveways. This illustration should also be considered to be included within the Bylaw at a later date.

7:17 p.m. Review Section 7 of the Bylaws: The following changes are to be included in the updates of the Bylaws: Section 701, 5th paragraph, line 1 add the word "and" after material and prior to fees. It was recommended that for Section 702.01, C, relating to power generation and transmission that the future City Plan should include some reference to the siting of these facilities. Section 708.02, B.2, line 3, add a "comma" after pads and before poles. Section 708.02, E.4, after exterior lighting; add in parentheses (down cast). There was also a discussion raised by Pam Ladds related to the lighted cross on the lake and how bright it was. ZA Elliott had spoken with the owner. Chair Curtis suggested that further research on lighting issues be conducted for future discussions. The final change to Section 7 was for Section 709.01, line 2 where Section 706 should be changed to "Section 708".

7:52 p.m. Other Business: Chair Curtis requested commission members review Section 8 and 9 for the next meeting.

ZA Elliott provided articles on upcoming events in Newport such as the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Community Visit Program (Fall 2017), film and panel discussion on adverse childhood experiences (May 4th 6:30-8:30 North Country Career Center) and a copy of the City of Newport's Certificate of Occupancy.

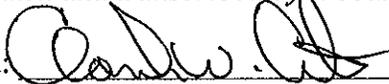
Bob Currier raised the issue of expanding the size of the Planning and Historical Preservation Commissions. Chair Curtis explained that the relatively large number of interested candidates in the vacancies on the Planning and Historical Preservation Commission got him wondering if the commissions should expand the current number of members. Mayor Monette felt that the current number of commission members was adequate and advised that if the commission was to move forward with adding new members that he would not add more than a total of 7 but emphasized that the current number of 5 was appropriate. Chair Curtis asked the Mayor if he could query council to determine if they would agree to an increase of commission members.

Chair Curtis stated that he had received an email from Ruth Sproull on the availability of a grant for town forests. No further details were provided, but Chair Curtis stated that he would pass along the information for future consideration.

8:08 p.m. Next Meeting: There will be a Planning Commission meeting scheduled for May 2nd, 2017, at 7 p.m. The Planning Commission agenda will consist of: 1. Call to Order, 2. Approve Minutes of April 18th, 2017, 3. Review Sections 8 and 9 of the Bylaws, 4. Set Date and Agenda for Next Meeting, 5. Adjourn.

8:09 p.m. Woodman Page made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Dan Ross.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.

Minutes taken and transcribed by Woodman Page

Approved:  _____ Date: 5-2-17