

NEWPORT CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

June 21st, 2016

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Lesley Becker, Denis Chenette, Paul Dreher, Pam Ladds, Dana Mitchell and Anne Page.

7:02 p.m. Chair Charles Elliott called the meeting to order. Clark Curtis moved to approve the minutes of the June 7th, 2016 meeting. This was seconded by Dan Ross.
APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.

7:03 p.m. Presentation by Health Works One and NCUHS Student on Store Front Signage: Lesley Becker and Dana Mitchell provided information on the effects of advertising and how marketing influences underage drinking. Data was shown where the rate of alcohol use by high school students is much higher in Newport than the overall average for Vermont students. These rates can be lowered through stronger state and community policies. Examples of Brattleboro and St. Johnsbury were provided where these communities have regulations limiting the amount of advertising in store windows or glass doors. Paul Dreher asked the Commission to think about the number of quick stops located near schools. It was further emphasized by Paul Dreher that Newport has within its form base code the means to impose restrictions on the amount of storefront signage. Winooski has recently enacted limited signage and there is also a newly established California Law where alcohol retail stores are prohibited from covering more than one-third (33 percent) of the square footage of windows. Clark Curtis requested that Paul Dreher and Lesley Becker submit to the Commission the material that was recently enacted for Winooski so that it might be considered for Newport's Bylaws.

7:25 p.m. Status of Back Yard Chicken Ordinance: Charles Elliott explained that he had gone before the City Council to obtain permission for the City Attorney to provide legal wording for the Enforcement Section of the Draft Chicken Ordinance. Any legal work must now receive approval from the City Council. The Council did grant its approval for Charles Elliott to move forward with the draft ordinance. The Planning Commission again reviewed the latest draft of the ordinance and made one change which was to remove any mention of roosters. The addition to the City's Bylaw which references the ordinance was also reviewed without any further changes. The Commission will still be required to review and approve the Chicken Ordinance before it is finally submitted to the City Council. Charles Elliott also stated that enforcement might be through a police officer or someone appointed as animal control. Tickets can and will be issued. Should these fines be ignored then liens can be placed on property.

8:05 p.m. Other Business: Dan Ross commented on how he was looking forward to getting back to updating the City's Bylaws and how the signage issue might be something

to include. The Commission had last edited the 400 section of the Bylaws. Clark Curtis discussed the importance of making more properties usable in different zones. Another topic raised was the methadone clinic and how busy the facility currently is. It was explained that the clinic had expanded into its own space that had previously been used for storage. Clark Curtis also reminded Chair Charles Elliott that the Newport Planning Commission needed to schedule a meeting with its Derby counterparts. Denis Chenette inquired on the usage of a building that is partially vacant and located in an industrial area of Newport. The Bylaws were reviewed and Mr. Chenette will get back to the Commission once a decision has been made as to the planned use of the portion of the building that is vacant.

8:42 p.m Next Meeting: The next meeting will be scheduled for July 5th, 2016, at 7p.m.

8:49 p.m. Robert Currier made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Woodman Page. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

Minutes taken and transcribed by Woodman Page

Approved: Charles Elliott Date: 7/5/2016