

NEWPORT CITY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

October 7, 2014

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jennifer Leithead

OTHERS PRESENT: John Ward, Pam Ladds, Perry Thomas

7:10 p.m. Chair Charles Elliott called the meeting to order. Minutes for September 23rd, and the 30th were presented and reviewed. Dan Ross moved to approve both sets of minutes with this being seconded by Clark Curtis. **APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS DECISION.**

7:10 p.m. MUNICIPAL PLAN UPDATES. Chair Charles Elliott received comments from Northern Vermont Development Association's Allison Lowe related to Newport's Flood Plain. The comments had been written out and were passed to Dan Ross for consideration. The comments were minor in nature and only needed some additional clarification. Charles Elliott stated that Newport has in its by-laws, provisions that building in a flood plain requires specific permits and other specifications such as the elevation of buildings.

Charles Elliott stated that he was still adding more information to his education section such as material from Eileen Illuzzi from the North Country High School Career Center. Charles Elliott also stated his surprise by the high number of students that were enrolled at the Community College of Vermont (CCV) in Newport. Ms Perry Thomas who is employed with the CCV commented that within Newport, CCV houses all of its on line learning programs. Ms Thomas also provided additional information related to the CCV portion.

Clark Curtis reported that his sections were complete and provided an overview and update on Lake Memphremagog, Neighboring Communities, Water & Sewer, and Canada. There were additional suggestions for Clark Curtis to consider and his sections will still need to be added to the Google Drive.

Charles Elliott also reviewed the Acknowledgment Section and made updates to it. Woodman Page will add these changes to the Google Drive Document.

7:50 p.m. MUNICIPAL PLAN HEARING DATE. Chair Elliott asked for comments on setting the hearing date for the Municipal Plan. It was decided that the plan would be printed for review prior to setting the date. Charles Elliott would also meet with Laurel Wilson to review the plans. Maps were supposed to be included by former Zoning Administrator Paul Dreher, but City Manager John Ward stated that the Paul Dreher's last day was October 3rd. Paul Dreher could still assist the commission if he was needed and this was confirmed with John Ward. Dan Ross was also going to meet with John Ward to review the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Perry Thomas made a request to the Planning Commission with regard to Clark Curtis' section on Water Quality. Ms Thomas was at the meeting on behalf of Don Hendricks. She was requesting that Newport commit to the practices of low impact development. The Planning Commission had considered the request some months ago, but the former Zoning Administrator Paul Dreher stated that it would not be approved. The statement was not included in the plan. Ms Thomas stated that she would like to see Mr. Hendricks section added since ultimately the state legislature and the Environmental Protection Agency would require it in the near future. John Ward provided a number of examples where Newport was making inroads on protecting the area's water shed, but he could not accept the statement being included into the plan. The City of Newport prefers to implement water quality procedures that have been proven effective rather than experimenting. City Manager John Ward also stated that Newport was not a wealthy community and could not waste the tax payers funds on procedures that might prove ineffective. Charles Elliott also provided examples where something such as a clinic was written into a plan which was meant to be one thing, but others and the state saw it as something else which forced Newport into something that it had not intended on. The bottom line is that one needs to be careful on the wording within the plans and editing will continue on all of the chapters.

8:30 p.m. OTHER BUSINESS. City Manager John Ward requested the Planning Commission to meet with the City Council to review applications for the zoning administrator position. A date was set for October 14th at 6:00 pm. The Planning Commission Meeting would follow the joint meeting.

Clark Curtis provided the Planning Commission information on an upcoming zoning forum/workshop that would be taking place in Montpelier on October 29th.

8:47 p.m. NEXT MEETING. Following the Joint Meeting with the City Council, the next meeting is scheduled for October 14th at or around 6:30p.m. in the City Council Room.

8:49p.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: Charles A. Elliott Date: 10-14-2014