

Council Minutes

June 17, 2019

A duly warned meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, June 17, 2019 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present were Mayor Paul Monette, Council President Julie Raboin, Kevin Charboneau, Melissa Pettersson, Daniel Ross, City Manager Laura Dolgin, City Clerk/Treasurer James D. Johnson, Jessica Booth, Eric Voegtlin, Chief Jamie LeClair, Chief Seth DiSanto, Tom Bernier, Mike Welch, Pam Smith, Christina Plazek, members of the Public and Press

Mayor Monette called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Pettersson moved to approve the minutes of June 3, 2019. Seconded by Ms. Raboin, motion carried unanimously.

Comments by Members of the Public

None

Bike Path & Pedestrian Grant Application (attached)

Mike Welch gave a presentation on the Vermont Bike and Pedestrian Program. The City would like to apply for this grant. The grant is for \$735,500. The city's match would be \$147,100 in cash. The application is due June 28, 2019 and requires a letter of support from the City. Ms. Raboin moved to approve the request. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Dementia Friendly Vermont (attached)

Pam Smith, Director of Family and Caregiver Support, Northeast Kingdom Council on Aging, gave a presentation on making Newport City and Vermont Dementia Friendly.

BAART Programs Presentation

Christina Plazek, MA updated the council on BAART and its programs.

Possible Executive Session, 1 VSA 313 (4)

None

Assessor Appointment

Ms. Dolgin noted that our current Assessors last day will be June 27, 2019. Ms. Dolgin recommended appointing Rob Naramore as the new City Assessor. Mr. Ross moved to appoint Rob Naramore as the new City Assessor. Seconded by Ms. Petterson, motion carried unanimously.

Mooring Field Boundary Update & Proposed Ordinance Amendment (attached)

Mr. Ross moved to approve the new Mooring Field Boundaries and amendments. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Large Events and Waived Fee Requests

Ms. Raboin moved to approve the UCA request for a Block Party on August 24, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Petterson moved to approve the event request from NEK Stand Strong Opioid Overdose Awareness Walk on July 14, 2019 contingent on receiving a letter and the \$223 fee. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin moved to waive the fee of \$917 for the Aquafest Event July 27, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Ross.

Discussion: Trash pickup along the parade route, in the food truck area and in Gardner Park will be the responsibility of the Chamber of Commerce. Trash pickup after the Street Dance will be the responsibility of the Recreation Dept. Food Vendors should be placed in the state offices parking lot and will need permits from the City.

Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin moved to approve the NCSU Encore Event on July 12, 2019. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously. The \$223 fee has been paid.

New Business

Mayor Monette read his opinion concerning the Event policy (attached). The council decided to establish a committee to come up with an event permit. Ms. Raboin moved that the committee consist of two Council members, the City Manager, the Recreation Dept. Director, at least one Recreation Committee Member and two event organizers. Seconded by Mr. Ross, motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Raboin has received complaints about noise from motorcycles and truck Airbrakes.

Old Business

None

Next Meeting Dates

July 8, 2019 and July 22, 2019.

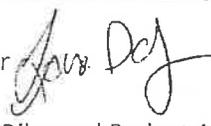
Adjournment

Mr. Ross moved to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Seconded by Mr. Charboneau, motion carried unanimously.

Attested: James Johnson This 8th Day of July 2019

[Signature]
Mayor

TO: City Council, City Clerk & Treasurer James Johnson, Public Works Director Tom Bernier

FROM: Laura Dolgin, City Manager 

RE: Funding Opportunity – VT Bike and Pedestrian Program

DATE: June 13, 2019

We have an opportunity to apply for a grant application to the 2019 VT Bike and Pedestrian Program. Grant applications are due on Friday, June 28, 2019. This program is supported by federal funding and requires a 20% cash match. The project can be completed over a multi-year period.

Public Works Director Thomas Bernier has developed a cost estimate relative to improvements that would benefit pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists in the City of Newport. A major portion of this project was analyzed as part of the 2017 Newport Intersection Study completed by Stantec Engineering.

This project encompasses more than just the Gardner Park Road and Waterfront Plaza entrances. The Plaza entrance would be shifted north to align with the park entrance. New traffic light controls, poles and lighting will be designed and installed. A VEC power pole would need to be relocated as well as a fire hydrant.

The existing underground conduit and power lines along the entire causeway from the Plaza entrance to the intersection of East Main /Union Street will be upgraded. The poles and electrical lines are due for replacement.

The I-91 and East Main Street intersections have newer control systems, but the aging aluminum poles and suspended lines need replacement. Street scape lighting will be added to new mast arms for all three of these intersections which would alleviate 6 or 7 single street light poles. There would still need to be 4-5 single aluminum poles for street lighting. Upgrading all three intersections will allow the traffic signals to be linked together which would keep the flow of traffic moving more efficiently.

The Causeway sidewalk and granite curbing from Hoagies Pizza entrance to East Main Street needs to be upgraded. The curbing needs some replacement and realigning. The sidewalk has large sections that are deteriorating and need replacement.

Union Street/ East Main Street retaining wall was added in to investigate R.O.W. and whether a new wall could be installed closer to the house which would allow for a third lane. This would give a left turn lane to go up East Main Street while still allowing straight through traffic to continue and not back up. This would help immensely especially when NCU High School is getting out. Pedestrian signalization will be installed at this intersection, which does not exist presently.

A total project cost of \$735,500 requires a cash match of \$147,100

The VT Bike and Pedestrian Program requires a:

Current Letter of Support from the City Council, and a written acknowledgement that the local match (20%) is committed and the source of the match identified. The Letter needs to include a commitment to future maintenance and responsibility for construction projects.

**City of Newport
VT Bike and Pedestrian Improvement Project
Estimated Project Cost:**

Traffic Lights: Vista, Interchange & East Main

Engineering/Design	\$45,000
Project Manager – Contract	\$45,000
East Coast Signals	\$325,000
City-Site Work	\$60,000
Soil Borings	\$3,000

Relocate Vista Entrance:

Railroad Easement Adjustment	\$0
Vista Sign	\$2,000
Bike Path Fence	\$3,000
VEC Power Pole Relocation	\$4,500
Fire Hydrant Relocation	\$6,000
Asphalt/Paving	\$11,000

Causeway Lighting:

City Site Work/Conduit	\$12,000
Granite Curbing/Resetting	\$9,000
Concrete Sidewalk	\$10,000
Light Poles & Pedestals	\$55,000
Asphalt/Paving	\$8,000
Electrician/VEC	\$60,000

Union St. East Main Intersection:

Replace granite wall	\$42,000
Equipment	\$10,000
Labor	<u>\$25,000</u>
	\$735,500

City Manager..... (802) 334-5136
City Clerk / Treasurer..... 334-2112
Public Works..... 334-2124
Zoning Adm. / Assessor..... 334-6992
Recreation / Parks..... 334-6345
Fax..... 334-5632



City of Newport
222 Main Street
Newport, Vermont 05855
www.newportvermont.org

June 17, 2019

Jon Kaplan
Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager
VT Agency of Transportation Municipal Assistance Bureau
1 National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: Letter of Support - Vt. Bike and Pedestrian Program Grant Application from City of Newport

Dear Mr. Kaplan

On behalf of the City of Newport's City Council, please consider this letter of support of our application to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Grant. This application, if awarded, will improve access and safety for people walking and bicycling through the planning, design and construction of a major intersection and roadway. This project relates to community and economic development, specifically around infrastructure development, business attraction and retention, and recreational development; all with the goal of creating a vibrant downtown community.

We understand and acknowledge that this grant, if awarded, requires the City to commit a cash match of 20%. We plan to do this through our capital expense budget.

We also understand the future maintenance and management of the resulting improvement is the responsibility of the City to ensure. These areas will be funded through our regular operating budget.

Economically, the City of Newport is challenged with household incomes well below State averages. Yet many opportunities exist to strengthen our community, from our proximity to the Canadian border, to the vibrant local foods economy, to the downtown's Lake Memphremagog access. This grant, if awarded, will enhance a major intersection where all of these assets come together, and alleviate the major expense to our tax payers.

We are grateful for the opportunity to apply.

Sincerely



Paul L. Monette, Mayor
City of Newport

It's Time to Make Vermont Dementia Friendly

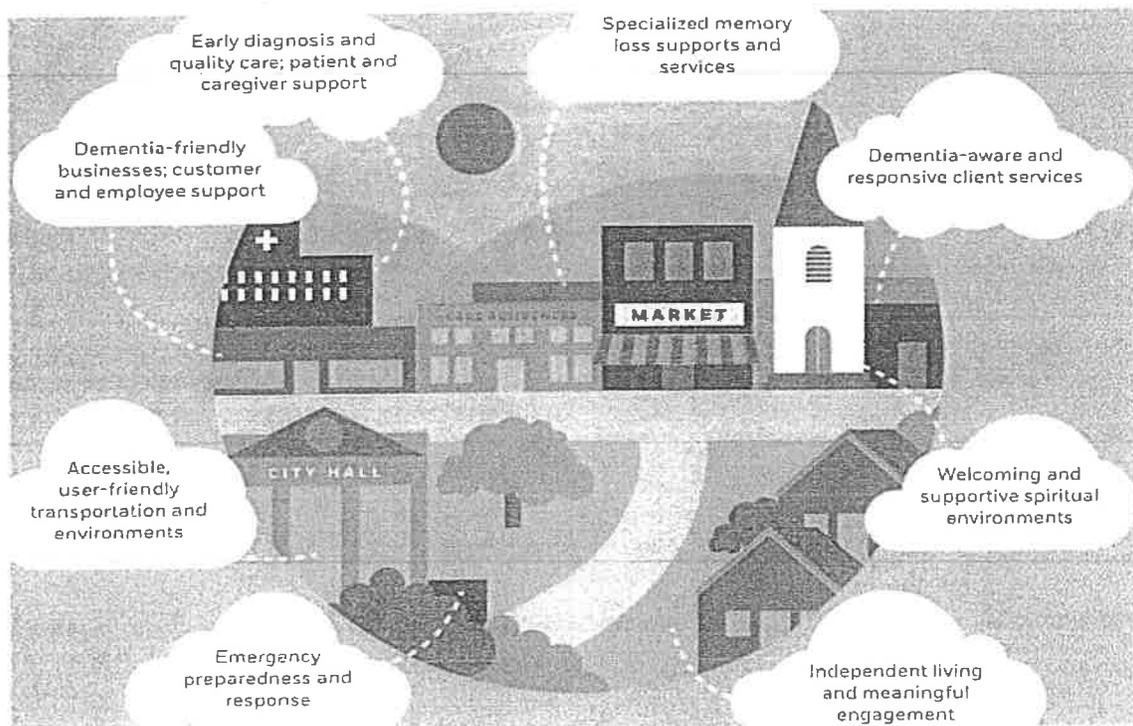
We need a Vermont where all people can live, age and thrive.

The Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) is leading statewide efforts to make Vermont dementia-friendly.

Did you know?

- Over 13,000 Vermonters age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's Disease in 2019.
- By 2025 this number is estimated to increase by 31% to 17,000.
- 60% of Vermonters with dementia live in their own community homes. The majority want to remain there as long as they can.

What is a Dementia Friendly Community? Dementia friendly communities foster the ability of people living with dementia to remain in community and engage and thrive in day to day living. A Dementia Friendly Community is informed, safe and respectful of individuals with dementia and their families, provides supportive options across all community sectors, and fosters a quality of life. **Dementia Friendly America** is a national network that supports the development and recognition of these communities across the country.



Learn more at dfamerica.org or contact
The Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders
Co-chair Janet Nunziata at janet.nunziata@med.uvm.edu

The current model of events approvals and policies are no longer sustainable. We've tried in earnest for over a year to have an events approval process that was fair, reasonable, and easy to use. The policy recognizes the value and vitality that events brings to the City. I don't want to lose sight of the benefits of events, but I do want to reframe our process to reflect what other municipalities successfully do through a permit process.

Since April of 2018, the majority of users have experienced a robust, successful, and safe event as a result of our policy. A few users have expressed complaints that the policy is tedious.

At our current pattern of approving all of the events that come before us, it is not sustainable financially and we are setting ourselves up to 'judge' events. As soon as we say no, we are likely to be challenged. We cannot let this take over our good will. We raise controversy every time we judge an event and I would remind us here tonight that we represent 3635 voters and mail out 2004 tax bills. We must treat everyone fairly and equally. We need a clear process so the event organizer knows what is expected.

We must wean event organizers away from the expectation that taxpayers will subsidize or fund events. The amount to be raised by the taxpayers for events, recreational opportunities, facilities maintenance, and programming is already \$579,000 through the Recreation Dept 's carefully planned budget .

As mayor and as per the charter, I have a responsibility to use my best efforts to see that the finances of the city are properly expended. We must work towards moving to a permit process with the council. I am asking that 2 council members step forward to work with the city manager and Parks and Rec director to come up with a permit process similar to Montplier's Event and Street closure permit. My goal is to see a proposal by mid-July. The beginning of the fiscal year is the perfect time to transition and begin a fresh start. A permit process will provide clarity, be simpler, and will ensure that accountability, a community safety and security plan, and a clean up plan are all in place for each event.