Newport City Planning Commission
Minutes

Tuesday November 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Commission Members:	John Monette Daniel Pickering Dennis Chenette Chris Vachon Mareo Oldacre
Zoning Administrator:	Erik Voegtlin
Members Present:	John Monette Mareo Oldecre Chris Vachon Dennis Chenette
Others Present:	Paul Monette Erik Voegtlin
Absent Members:	Daniel Pickering

Call to order: John Monette called the meeting to order.

Approve the minutes of the planning commission meeting held on November 10, 2020: Unanimous approval.

City Plan Development: Discussion of next step from the results of survey and to assimilate the vision statement to the public. What themes do we want to add to vision statement? Outdoor recreation is one theme to be added to vision. People are starting to notice activity of outdoor winter activity in Newport. 60% of responses were from people that have been here 20+ years. Looking to see to solicit younger community. Want to include people with forward thinking to help the city thrive. Want to solicit more forward thinkers to add to the community and to encourage building of the city. Discussion is how to move forward with COVID-19. Need to come up with plan where there is a remote working opportunity. Looking for opportunities of making Newport a remote hub. More people are coming into the state that can do their job in a remote location like Newport. Need to talk to Comcast to discuss installation of fiber optics cable to solicit to people for high speed internet. This in turn could add more opportunities and bring other businesses to Newport. More discussions revealed that there is high speed internet in the area and there is fiber optics as well more specifically in the high school. Not a lot of businesses utilize it due to not needing it because they are small. Discussion of working from home might be more permanent, so faster internet would be ideal. Discussion to push more info out there about

recreational activities. VT has a lot publicity from mountain biking, Newport included. Bike race used to be here in Newport now it is in Burke. Discussion to encourage people to subdivide their properties to entice more development. Discussion of the city stepping in about assisting homeowners to clean up properties. The city does not have the funds to assist in fixing property. Discussion of more and more building are dilapidated. Discussion of changing bylaws so they are not so strict on main street and industrial and commercial zones. These restrictions do not serve a whole lot of purpose and it would be ideal to change them. Discussion of writing vision statement for each element of the municipal plan. Work on vision for housing and recreation. John Monette volunteered to work on vision for housing. Some elements need to be updated. Going to add SE group to next agenda to get an update on the next steps.

Old business: None

New business: None

Set draft agenda for next regularly scheduled meeting: December 1, 2020 at 7:00PM

Adjourn: 8:30p motion made by Denis Chenette and seconded by Chris Vachone.

Approved - 4/5/2022