


City of Newport
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2024

Members Present: John Monette Chair, Denis Chenette, Carole O' Connell, Gina Cirelli and Jay Walsh

Members Absent: Kevin Mead

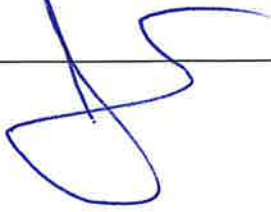
Others Present: Zoning Administrator Frank Cheney

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Monette at 6:51 p.m.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Denis Chenette made a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2024, Carole O' Connell seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
- **Public Comment:** none
- **Election of Officers** 
 - A) ~~Denise~~ Chenette made a motion to nominate John Monette as Chair of the Newport City Planning Commission/Historic Preservation Committee, Carole O' Connell seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
 - B) Denis Chenette made a motion to nominate Gina Cirelli as Vice Chair of the Newport City Planning Commission/ Historic Preservation Committee, Jay Walsh seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
- **Planning Commission Rules of Procedure:** The current procedural rules were reviewed by commission members, with two minor adjustments being agreed upon. Denis Chenette made a motion to accept the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure as corrected, Carole O' Connell seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.
- **Bylaw Modernization project:**
 - A) Frank Cheney outlined the protocol and timeline of a possible extension to the Bylaw Modernization Grant. After some discussion, the planning commission advised Mr. Cheney to request that the Award End Date of the State of Vermont Bylaw Modernization Grant be moved to 5/31/2024.
 - B) The Planning Commission Members reopened evaluation of sections within the Draft Unified Regulations that had previously been marked for additional attention. The following areas were evaluated and marked for amendment:
 - 1) Dimensional Standards
 - 2) Expansion of Use Definition
 - 3) Flood Regulations
 - 4) Stormwater Regulation
 - 5) Certificate of Completion
- **Old Business:** None
- **New Business:**
 - 1) Carole O' Connell presented the commission with a detailed overview of the proposed "micro transit" solution to the public transportation challenges faced by the citizens of Newport.
 - 2) Gina Cirelli provided useful resource materials outlining approaches to development designed to maintain the architectural "spirit" of a community during a period of aggressive urban infill.

- **Agenda:** The next scheduled Planning Commission Meeting will be held on April 2, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the Newport City Council Room. The agenda will be like tonight's meeting.
- **Adjourn:** Gina Cirelli made a motion to adjourn, Carole O'Connell seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Approved this 2 day of April, 2024.

Chair, Newport City Planning Commission

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' shape with a loop at the bottom.