

TOWN OF NORTHFIELD, VERMONT
PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of May 20, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Chair Hill-Eubanks.

- I. **Roll Call:** Present for the meeting were Commissioners Ruth Ruttenberg, Nancy Peck, Laura Hill-Eubanks. Also attending was Brandy Saxton, planner from PlaceSense; Jason Endres, David Feinauer, Kaitlyn Keating, Carolyn Stevens (NCDN); Jeanne Bright; Gail Hall (NEC); Merry Kay Shernock.
- II. **Set/Adjust Agenda:**
- III. **Public Participation:** PC took comments and questions on the current draft of the town plan from members of the public in attendance. NCDN members noted that the new draft of the town plan did not incorporate the suggestions as they had written and submitted them. PC/Planner explained that the new plan is formatted differently and the ideas from NCDN have been largely incorporated but are not all in the Economic Development chapter. Some of the relevant ideas are in chapters most affected by specific issues, such as Housing and Transportation. Comment made that the plan seems like a report and should be more aspirational. PC explained statute requires data be included and updated; and having data and information in the plan helps to inform good decision-making in the future.

Question as to whether priorities listed can be changed – answer is Yes. Suggested that the Objectives be linked to Actions in the Implementation section.

Gail Hall suggested that there be more data to reflect current energy use. Planner explained that some data is not available but will try to find more.

Jeanne Bright expressed strong concerns over the behavior of Norwich University students this spring. The students were drinking in public and in front yards in the village neighborhoods. They were unruly and rude to the local residents. Ms. Bright said she did not feel safe walking in the neighborhood and some students had said offensive things. She thinks there needs to be some plan to deal with this problem going forward – and reference

to it included in the town plan. Neither Norwich nor the town law enforcement seems to take it seriously. Ideas offered included forming a local group to come up with strategies to deal with the issues; having clauses in rental agreements; would like to keep good relations with Norwich but ask that they be proactive and have procedure to require acceptable behavior of students in the local area.

PC asked that further comments on the plan be sent to the PC in writing to make the process more effective.

IV. Town Plan Update:

- a. PC reviewed most current draft of the town plan update. Suggested that the Energy maps explain the Known and Potential Constraints.

Ask Jeff Schulz where the power from the dam on the Dog River goes, and confirm 222 kw number.

- V. Work Plan:** Send Planner the edits we would like, and comments from public, by May 27. Planner will send a new draft of the plan by the first full week in June. The planning grant ends May 31, and we have until the end of June to submit final PC draft of plan and a report to the state. Next PC meeting is June 17 – we can take public comments and work on the draft. May need an additional meeting in June. Next draft should go out for Public Hearing by the PC after 30-day notice. Send the next draft of the plan to the CVRPC for review prior to hearings.

- VI. Approval of Minutes:** February 18, 2019; March 2, 2019; March 18, 2019, April 15, 2019. Tabled.

VII. Other Business:

- VIII. Next Regular Meeting:** June 17, 2019.

- IX. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

These minutes are subject to changes and approval at the next regular meeting, but are substantially correct.