

NEWFANE PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: Newfane Town Hall

Meeting Date: February 10, 2015

Attendees: Gary Delius, George Friend, Tristram Johnson, Pat Weisbrich

Absent: Ed Druke

DRB Attendees: None

Zoning Admin.: None

Public Attendees: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND ACTIONS

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m. Attendees as noted above.
- II. Review and Approve Minutes:
 - a. A motion was made by Gary and seconded by George to approve the revised minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- III. Review Agenda and approve the agenda:
 - a. A motion was made by Gary and seconded by George to approve the revised minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Recognize members of the public: None

OLD BUSINESS

- V. Creating a new Town Plan: Planning Commission (PC) members agreed to read the sections of the current Town Plan on Community Goals and Transportation. :

A lively discussion regarding Community Goals ensued amongst the four PC members present. A variety of questions, ideas, strategies and tactics for approaching the creation of the new Town Plan were put forth:

- a. Observations regarding current Town Plan (TP):
 - i. Goals included are not time bound and not measurable. Current town plan reads more like a vision statement than a plan.
 - ii. There is no clear message of what Newfane is. Current document was substantially written by the Windham Regional Commission.
 - iii. Historic legacy of why Newfane exists is a missing piece to current TP.
 - iv. It is important to engage representatives from all areas of the Town, especially Williamsville and South Newfane.
 - v. A historical perspective of Newfane should be included in the new TP in order for residents to develop pride for their town.
 - vi. The new TP should be an organic document that reflects the desires the town.
 - vii. The next TP should provide a global vision with action steps and measurable points to demonstrate progress. In other words, elements in the plan must be measurable and time bound.
 - viii. A suggestion was made to invite a representative of the Historical Society address the history of Newfane to include elements such as the history of the creative community on West Street and history of inns and lodges that once populated the town.
 - ix. Another suggestion was to engage local colleges and school children in the process
 - x.
 - xi.
- b. Questions for the next Town Plan
 - i. Does the current TP reflect the desire of the residents?

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- ii. Suggested parallel process of addressing the past, present and future and having groups to work on each of these?
- iii. What goals should be set to retain current families and attract new, young families?
- iv. What strategies can be used to engage town residents and involve them in the process of creating a new Town Plan?
- v. How can Newfane Anew be engaged in the town planning process?
- vi. Can representatives from each of the three areas of Newfane (Newfane, South Newfane and Williamsville) contribute to the process?
- vii. How can we create a new document that will provide a clear message as to what Newfane is?
- viii. Will Newfane, as a town, embrace the area ski resorts to leverage economic development?
- ix. Proposed questions to be asked of town residents:
 1. Where did Newfane come from
 2. Where is Newfane now
 3. Where do we want to be in the future
 4. Why are you here in Newfane?
 5. What are the things that keep you here?It was suggested we divide the project into four month segments to speak to numbers 1-3 above.
- x. To what level of detail should the TP be written?

NEW BUSINESS

VIII. Notes and Communications from the Selectboard (SB)

- a. Shannon clarified there is no limit on transfers between line items as long the Planning Commission stay within the overall bottom line.
- c. Regarding the Zoning By-Laws:
- d. In a telephone conversation with Tristram, Piet Van Loon asked – Did the PC complete their responsibility regarding Zoning By-Laws?
 - i. The SB is working on Zoning By-Laws. They are making changes, don't know if they are dealing appropriately with changes.
 - ii. SB needs to approve.
 - iii. Planning Commission has done all it can do. Ball is in SB Court

IX. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 7 p.m., at the Newfane Town Hall.

X. Move to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Weisbrich

Patricia H. Weisbrich