

TOWN OF NEWFANE
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES of JANUARY 14, 2021

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Estey, Nolan Edgar, Jane Douglas, Lynn Forrest

OTHERS PRESENT: Debbie Barry, Patty Johnson, Sue Mills, Kate Gehring, Keith Nowak, John Bennett (Windham Regional Commission)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm by Ken Estey

ADDITIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

MINUTES

Commission reviewed minutes of 12/23/20 meeting. A motion was made by Jane and seconded by Lynn to approve the minutes of 12/23/20. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote (Nolan absent).

UNSCHEDULED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Broadband Update, Deerfield Valley Communications Union District:

Jane gave update on Newfane's membership in the Deerfield Valley Communications Union District.

Selectboard Meeting, Jan 18, coverage:

Commission discussed Newfane's Selectboard request that the Commission discuss economic development at the January 18 Selectboard meeting.

Report from Development Review Board (DRB):

None.

Upcoming zoom-based educational opportunity (AARP VT):

Lynn informed the Commission of upcoming AARP VT, Enabling Better Places workshop.

Commissioners agree to attend if possible.

Discussion of most recent draft of Zoning Bylaw for Short Term Rentals:

Commission heard feedback from John Bennett on the draft Zoning Bylaw for short term rentals.

Commission heard comments from the public on the draft. Commission discussed draft with public.

Lynn and Nolan agree to organize feedback received so far in one document. Ken agrees to contact Jeff

Nugent, Lynn agrees to contact Tom Dowling for further information. Jane agrees to contact Lister

Doris Knechtel.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for reports to Planning Commission on food and housing insecurity:

Ken proposes inviting professionals to come to Planning Commission meetings to present information on food and housing insecurity in Newfane and surrounding towns. Commission agrees that Ken will reach out to various area professionals (Grace Cottage Community Advisor, Newfane Congregational Church Pastor Rob Hamm, Newbrook Elementary School Principal Scotty Tabachnick, Gloria Cristelli, West River Mutual Aid Network) to see if they would be willing to speak at a future Planning Commission meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Lynn and seconded by Jane to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nolan Edgar