

Newport Development Review Board Minutes

DRAFT

Wednesday February 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM

**All persons attending must participate in the meeting by
Phoning (425) 436-6395 and entering PIN: 8748673#
or by Computer by going to <https://freeconferencecall.com> and join the
meeting by using id: erikvoegtlin**

Development Review Board: John Harlamert, Chair
Vacant
Agathe Coburn
Daniel Pickering
Jay Gonyaw
Harriet Hall Alternate

Zoning Administrator: Erik Voegtlin

Members Present: Chair John Harlamert, Jay Gonyaw, Dan Pickering, Agathe Coburn

Others present: John Cogan, Erik Voegtlin

Absent Members: Harriet Hall

1. **Call to order:** Chair John Harlamert called the meeting to order at 7:00. These meetings are being held remotely as a result of the Stay Home/Stay Safe Executive Orders.
2. **Approve the minutes of the Development Review Board meeting held on January 6, 2021:** 07:01 motion made by Jay Gonyaw and seconded by Agathe Coburn, Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Consider Waiver Request from John Cogan, 68 Cottage Street Newport VT 05855:** John Cogan duly filed a Waiver Request and appropriate fees requesting additional time to address the condition of his property located at the above captioned address. John Harlamert reviewed the request and the appropriate regulations on the record. He then swore in all participants that wished to speak.

John Cogan affirmed that he received the NOV and that he agreed with most of the violation. Mr. Cogan stated that he has never spoken to the ZA and he does not agree with the time frame to fix his property. He further stated that he believes it is ludicrous to fix this property within this time frame.

Chair Harlamert added the following documents into evidence:

1. 2019 Subaru picture
2. 2016 NOV
3. 2018 NOV
4. 2019 NOV
5. 2020 NOV
6. Certified mail receipt 2018

7. 2020 front yard shed picture with car
8. 2018 front and side yard picture with car
9. 2018 front yard picture with subaru
10. 2019 side yard picture
11. 2019 side yard picture in winter
12. 2019 side yard picture in winter
13. 2020 NOA
14. Certified return receipt 2020
15. 2016 aggrieved letter from Mr. Cogan

He then opened questions to DRB members. Dan Pickering asked Mr. Cogan why he had not dealt with these problems in the past. Mr. Cogan responded he has gone through a lot of personal problems due to divorce and financial problems. Mr. Cogan noted that he has been working on the overgrowth through the summer and even worked on Christmas day. Mr. Cogan noted that Charlie Elliot was in contact and thought they had a good relationship but was not able to keep up with requests. Has been in contact with the City and he had intentions to get it done and can't get it done in the course of the week as he has other obligations that he must attend to.

DRB Member Jay Gonyaw noted there is a pattern going back to 2016 and he questioned why this was not fixed. Mr. Cogan explained that he is not arguing, just wants more time to clean up the property. Mr. Gonyaw inquired as to what is left to clean up to bring the property into compliance. Mr. Cogan explained that it used to be 2 lots and now it is 1 lot on 2 sides of the street. He has to remove 2 cars and debris around the yard. Mr. Gonyaw asked if the Subaru is still there and Mr. Cogan rescinded affirmatively. Mr. Cogan asked to be cut a break and said that the board should consider giving him until June 30th because the city has nothing to lose.

Chair Harlamert explained to Mr. Cogan that the board has 45 days from today to make a decision. And, if he so chooses, Mr Cogan has 30 days from the date of the letter to appeal to the Environmental Court. Chair Harlamert asked for a motion to close the hearing; motion made by Mr. Gonyaw and seconded by Mr. Pickering, and the motion unanimously passed. Mr. Cogan then departed the hearing.

The Board deliberated on the record. Mr. Gonyaw said that this has been ongoing from 2016 and Mr. Pickering agreed and noted that everyone has a responsibility. Agathe Coburn noted that she sees his point because it is hard to remove items in the winter.

Mr. Pickering made a motion to have the property brought up to compliance by June 1, 2021, seconded by Agathe Coburn. Unanimous vote in favor.

4. **Other business:** N/A

5. **Set draft agenda for next regularly scheduled meeting:** N/A

6. **Adjourn:** Chair Harlamert asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Motion made by Mr. Pickering and seconded by Jay Gonyaw.











