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 City Clerk/Treasurer ..... 334-2112  
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City of Newport  
 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes  
 November 15, 2022

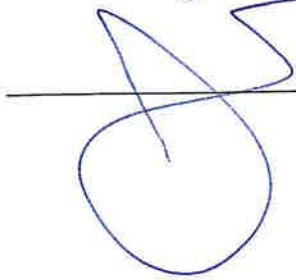
Members Present: John Monette, Denis Chenette, Carole O’Connell,  
 Members Absent: Kevin Mead  
 Others Present: Zoning Administrator Frank Cheney, Paul Luciano(remotely), and City Manager Laura Dolgin

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Monette at 7:00 p.m.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes of November 1, 2022, made by Carole O’ Connell, seconded by Denis Chenette, the motion passed.
- **Public Comment:** none
- **Agenda Item:**
  - 1) Hazard Mitigation Program Review:  
 Paul Luciano presented an update to the Planning Commission regarding the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan. Mr. Luciano commended Newport for the continued excellence it has exhibited in its planning efforts to mitigate natural hazards on behalf of the community and noted that it had generally avoided any negative outcomes resulting from hazardous events over the five-year review period. Furthermore, it is evident that the current hazard mitigation guidelines designed to reduce the area’s vulnerability are effective. The next step in the update process will be to present the guidelines to the Newport City Council for their review and comment prior to submission to the State of Vermont and FEMA, and all to occur before 1/1/2023.
  - 2)Bylaw Modernization Project:  
 The commission reopened discussion on non-conformities and how best to approach this issue in the updated bylaws to relieve potential roadblocks to development in neighborhoods. Chair Monette noted that Brandy Saxton was in the process of analyzing non-conforming neighborhood’s and that the anticipated adjustments to density and dimensional requirements may alleviate the issue. Nonconformities were marked for attention in future sessions.
- **Old Business:**  
 The Planning Commission opened old business with recognition of the NVDA Regional Approval Hearing to review the Newport City Municipal Plan which was held immediately preceding tonight's Planning Commission Meeting. The Regional Review Committee after an insightful question and answer period voted unanimously to recommend the City Municipal Plan for full NVDA Board approval. It was acknowledged that the extensive process of updating the Municipal Plan had produced an impressive document that will shape the future of Newport. Special thanks went out to Alison Low and City Manager Dolgin for their tireless efforts in making this project a resounding success.
- **New Business:**
  - Zoning Administrator Cheney informed commission members of a vacancy on The Regional Planning Commission Board (NVDA) and invited them to seek membership as one of Newport’s representatives. City Manager Dolgin provided interested members with an overview of the role and responsibility that membership would entail.

- **Draft Agenda:** The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meeting will be held on December 5, 2022, at **6:00 p.m.** The agenda will be like tonight's meeting.
- **Adjourn:** Motion made to adjourn by Dennis Chenette and seconded by Carole O'Connell. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Zoning Administrator Frank Cheney  
Unofficial Until Approved

Approved this 6 day of Dec., 2022



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Chair, Newport City Planning Commission