

City of Newport
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2023

Members Present: John Monette, Denis Chenette, Carole O' Connell

Members Absent: Kevin Mead

Others Present: Zoning Administrator Frank Cheney, Place Sense Consultant Brandy Saxton, City Council member Chris Vachon and Mayoral Candidate Beth Barnes.

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Monette at 6:30 p.m.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Carole O' Connell made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023, Denise Chenette seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
- **Public Comment:** none
- **Agenda Item:**
 1. **Proposed Bylaw Amendment to section 210/Retail General Intentions**

The Planning Commission reviewed revised language presented by Brandy Saxton updating Article 1 sections 210/211.01 of the Newport City Zoning Bylaws. Carole O'Connell made a motion to accept the draft language, approve the amendment as written and deliver it to the Newport City Council for their consideration and potential approval with the full recommendation of the Planning Commission. Denis Chenette seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. The Planning commission will formally request that the City Council schedule a public hearing to consider this amendment at the next council meeting.
 2. **Bylaw Modernization Project:**

Brandy Saxton coordinated a parcel by parcel evaluation of the proposed zoning district boundary lines. Areas of concern were scrutinized and updated, the process of finalizing the proposed boundary lines will be continued at upcoming working sessions.
- **Old Business:**

There was no old business introduced for discussion.
- **New Business:** In consideration of the magnitude of work involved in the bylaw modernization project the commission agreed that it would be helpful to hold additional Planning Commission Meetings over the next few months, the first of such will be scheduled for April 11, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.
- **Draft Agenda:** The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meeting will be held on March 21, 2023, immediately following the Historic Preservation Committee Meeting. The Planning Commission agenda will include an analysis of the local real estate market with licensed agent Ryan Pronto. The continued review of proposed zoning district boundary lines and the readoption of Planning Commission Procedural Rules will also be added to the agenda.
- **Adjourn:** Denis Chenette made a motion to adjourn, Carole O' Connell seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9.15 p.m.

Approved this 21 day of March, 2023.

Chair, Newport City Planning Commission