

DRAFT

**City of Newport
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
April 4, 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, Mayor Beth Barnes, Sarah Noyes, Alison Low, Beth Torpey, Ned Swanberg and Gina Cirelli

- **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair Monette at 6:35 p.m.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Carole O' Connell made a motion to approve the minutes of March 21, 2023, Denis Chenette seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
- **Public Comment:** none
- **Agenda Item: Newport City Flood Regulation Review**
 - 1) Ned Swanberg the Regional Floodplain Manager with The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources provided commission members with an in depth slide show presentation relating to the anticipated FEMA Flood Map Updates and the potential affect they would have on the Newport City Flood Hazard Maps/Regulations. Topics covered in detail By Mr. Swanberg included:
 1. FEMA Map Update Process
 2. State of Vermont Municipal Bylaw update. Which identifies a deadline of approximately two years for most communities in Vermont with the Orleans County Prep Deadline scheduled for summer of 2025.
 3. Model Bylaws
 - Models that meet or exceed requirements for the national Flood Insurance Program.
 - Avoiding losses of remaining river corridor and floodplain functions
 - Reducing the risk of disaster for families, friends, and the community
 - Supporting community co-benefits including clean drinking water, habitat, and recreation.
 - Supporting flood resilience and the highest level of reimbursement from ERAF after disasters.
 4. Key elements of the Vermont No Adverse Impact Standards.
 - Room for Rivers
 - No Net Fill
 - Lowest Floor Elevation/Recommended at least 2' above flood elevation
 - Substantial Improvement

At the close of the presentation an extensive discussion ensued during which the Planning Commission evaluated the presentation and how the pending FEMA updates could be incorporated into the Bylaw Modernization Project. The consensus derived from this discussion indicated that the information gathering process on this topic should continue and the Planning Commission would revisit this issue in July or August 2023.

- **Old Business:**

There was no old business introduced for discussion.
- **New Business:** Frank Cheney notified commission members that he would be forwarding them a recently received Housing and Needs Assessment Study provided to the City of Newport by Rural Edge.
- **Draft Agenda:** The next scheduled Planning Commission Meeting will be held on April 11, 2023, at 6:30p.m. This is a special scheduled meeting to continue work on The Bylaw Modernization Project with PlaceSense consultant Brandy Saxton.

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- **Adjourn:** Denis Chenette made a motion to adjourn, Carole O' Connell seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved this ___ day of _____, 2023.

_____ Chair, Newport City Planning Commission