

City of Newport
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2023

Members Present: Chair John Monette, Denis Chenette, Carole O'Connell, and Gina Cirelli

Members Absent: Kevin Mead

Others Present: Zoning Administrator Frank Cheney, Brandy Saxton, Interim City Manager Karen Geraghty, Rick Ufford-Chase, David Laforce, Amanda Bauscher and Rick Woodward

- **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 July 11, 2023, Gina Cirelli seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
- **Public Comment:** none
- **Agenda Item: Bylaw Modernization Project/Outreach Event**
 1. Brandy Saxton representing Place Sense Consulting provided a power point presentation outlining the details of the proposed Newport City Draft Zoning Regulations to the combined membership of the Planning Commission and Newport City Downtown Development Group.
 2. Extensive discussion and analysis on a wide array of regulatory issues ensued following the presentation which included but was not limited to the following topics:
 - A. Form Based Code and Design Standards
 - B. Historical District Designation
 - C. Parking requirements and challenges
 - D. Building height requirements
 - E. Downtown use requirements
 - F. Development outlook and planning challenges in Newport's downtown districts.
- **Old Business:** None
- **New Business:** Chair Monette requested the Planning Commission would consider a petition by Vermont Transco and Vermont Electric Power Company collectively VELCO to review their plans to make upgrades to its substation in Newport and waive the required the 45 day advances notice requirement. This item will be added to the next regular meeting agenda
- **Draft Agenda:** The next scheduled Planning Commission Meeting will be held on August 1, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The agenda will be like tonight's meeting.
- **Adjourn:** Denis Chenette made a motion to adjourn, Carole O'Connell seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Approved this 27 day of August, 2023.

Chair, Newport City Planning Commission