

City of Newport
Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2023

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

Members Absent: Kevin Mead

Others Present: Zoning Administrator Frank Cheney

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Monette at 6:35p.m.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Denis Chenette made a motion to approve the minutes of November 7, 2023, Carole O' Connell seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
- **Public Comment:** none
- **Bylaw Modernization project:**
 - Frank Cheney presented a proposed update to the Zoning Department Fee Schedule Policy to the Planning Commission, following some discussion and one amendment Denis Chenette made a motion to accept the updated Fee Schedule and recommend it for approval by the Newport City Council. Gina Cirelli seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.
 - The Planning Commission Members reopened evaluation of sections within the Draft Unified Regulations that had previously been marked for additional attention. The following areas were evaluated and amended:
 - 1) Fences, Walls, and Hedges
 - 2) Animal Services
 - 3) Harboring of livestock
- **Old Business:** Denis Chenette provided information and commentary on the struggles that many Vermont communities are encountering with dilapidated and abandoned properties.
- **New Business:**
 - 1) Chair Monette updated the commission on the continued success of the St Albans, Vermont public/private partnership promoting new affordable housing in their community.
 - 2) Frank Cheney provided the latest information regarding the status of FEMA Base Flood Map revisions.
 - 3) Caroll O' Connell introduced two opportunities of interest to the City of Newport and it's residents. Home Share Vermont and Bicycle Friendly Communities both are interesting programs designed to raise the quality of life in rural area's.
- **Agenda:** The next scheduled Planning Commission Meeting with be held on December 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Newport City Council Room. The Agenda will be similar to tonight's meeting.
- **Adjourn:** Denis Chenette made a motion to adjourn, Carole O' Connell seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Approved this 5th day of December
2023. _____ Chair, Newport City Planning Commission