

**DRAFT**

**City of Newport**  
**Planning Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**February 4, 2025**

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

**Members Absent:** Kevin Mead

**Others Present:** Zoning Administrator Frank Cheney

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Monette at 6:35 p.m.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Denis Chenette made a motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2025, Carole O' Connell seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.
- **Public Comment:** none
- **Bylaw Modernization-**
  - 1) Frank Cheney reported to members regarding the status of the ongoing legal review of the Draft Unified Development Regulations. Following the update, the commission's consensus was that public hearings on approval would be able to be scheduled by the end of March 2025 at the earliest.
  - 2) Carole O Connell presented Bill H.09 which has recently been introduced in the Vermont Legislature. The bill is designed to allow local municipality to enforce higher standards of compliance relating to building upkeep and condition. Monitoring the bills progress as it relates to future Newport policy development is indicated.
- **Old Business:** None
- **New Business:**
  1. John Monette, Chair outlined the new State of Vermont policy requiring Planning Commission Members to complete an ethics training module. Chair Monette has completed the training and provided the commission with guidance to complete the process.
  2. Chair Monette also reported that the Newport Downtown Group's Housing Task Force scheduled to disband in January 2025 has been extended indefinitely. Mr. Monette has agreed to continue to serve in his capacity as the Planning Commissions Liaison in support of their efforts.
- **Agenda:** The next scheduled Planning Commission Meeting will be held on February 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Newport City Council Room. 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 8:00 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair, Newport City Planning Commission