

Newfield Planning Board Meeting

November 16, 2011

In Attendance:

Planning Board: Randy Brown (Chair), Gary Goff, Tony Russo, Gene Yaples, Chris Hayes, Eva Marques (volunteer), Jim Haustein (secretary)

Minutes submitted by: Jim Haustein

Agenda Items

1. 2010 Census
2. December Meeting on Economic Development
3. Input from Farmers
4. Other Business

2010 Census

Chris Hayes provided some demographic data provided by the 2010 census. This will be compared to demographic data in the Comprehensive Plan Survey to determine if the survey included an appropriate cross-section of the Newfield population.

December Meeting on Economic Development

Chris Hayes was previously tasked to host a meeting in early December regarding Economic Development. This meeting will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 PM on December 14 in the Newfield Town Hall.

This meeting should include discussion on what is needed to encourage people to do business in Newfield or what is hindering individuals from expanding businesses already in Newfield. We seem to have a limited amount of data from the business community to use in the Comprehensive Plan and we need to fill this gap.

Randy Brown provided a list of Newfield businesses and contact information. Meeting attendees vetted this list and provided a few additional business names.

The meeting should consist of a discussion of several questions; the below questions provide some examples of what the dialog with business professionals may contain:

1. Do you want to grow your business?
2. What are the main problems you encounter that limit your business?
3. Do you want to start a business?
4. What are the main problems you encounter/encountered when starting a business?
5. What are the two main reasons your business is successful in Newfield?
6. What are the two main reasons your business isn't more successful?
7. Do you feel your business is well received by the residents of Newfield?
8. Why is your business in Newfield?
9. What could the Town of Newfield do to help your business?
10. What can be done to promote local use of your local business?

Eva Marques, a volunteer, will review and edit these questions to come up with a final list. The plan is to send prospective attendees a letter followed by a “reminder” phone call. Individuals will be asked to RSVP via phone or by sending an e-mail to newfieldplanningboard@gmail.com.

Questions to be addressed should be included in the letter. It is important that people feel that it would be beneficial for them to participate; that is, it would be an opportunity for them to express their opinion.

Input from Farmers

The importance of input from farmers for use in the Comprehensive Plan was discussed.

Other Business

- Randy Brown has assumed the position of chair for the Newfield Planning Board.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Eva Marques to finalize the list of questions for the December 14 Economic Development meeting.
- Randy Brown to draft a follow up letter for business owners solicited for attendance at the December 14 Economic Development meeting. Letters should be sent approximately December 2. Eva Marques will assist Randy Brown with calls, beginning about December 8 or 9.
- Chris Hayes to finish planning for the December 14 Economic Development meeting.