

Newfield Planning Board Meeting Minutes

October 3, 2012

In Attendance:

- Planning Board: Randy Brown (Chair), Nancy Dolge, Gary Goff , Tony Russo, Gene Yaples
- Other: Chris Hayes (Consultant), Richard Driscoll (Newfield Town Supervisor), Ray Wheaton
- Barbara Tefft, Secretary

Agenda Items:

- Approve minutes of August 19 and September 5, 2012
- Randy to provide Barb with the **Job Description for Planning Board Secretary**
- Report on progress on **Industry, Business and Hamlet** chapters
- Report on discussion with Town Board about the concept of the **Old Home Days Committee** being made an official committee of the Town rather than the existing group of private individual organizers.

Report and Discussion:

- Resources
- Communications
- Other business

Meeting called to order, 7:15 pm, Newfield Town Hall.

Minutes - Submitted by Barbara Tefft:

Newfield Planning Board previously shelved its minutes of August 19, 2012, due to lack of a voting quorum at the September 5, 2012 meeting. Minutes now approved.

Minutes of September 19, 2012 meeting approved, with minor corrections.

Discussion: Job Description for Secretary

Randy provided Barbara Tefft with the formal Job Description for the Secretary position for the Newfield Planning Board.

Discussion and Review: Presentation of Planning Document to Newfield Town Board

Richard Driscoll provided a Draft Comprehensive Plan Adoption Calendar to the Planning Board, outlining expected deadlines to be met for the Comp Plan approval process to be completed prior to the expiration of the Gas Drilling Moratorium. Randy discussed with Richard the Planning Board's plan to present sections of the document as they are completed to the Town Board for review and comment as it is delivered. Richard stated that the Town Board would like to see the document but not comment on it until public comment is received and incorporated. Chris stated that informal feedback from the Town Board is accepted as part of the process. Richard said it is acceptable for the Town Board to receive chapters as long as any comments from Town Board members are made informally and are regarding clarity, format and readability, rather than specifically content. Richard was amenable to the Town Board providing comments on content as well, as

long as it was under specific guidance from the planning board and non-binding. Richard wants to touch base with Tompkins County to make sure procedures are being followed.

Discussion and Review: Health and Safety

Ray Wheaton reported on his progress. He is trying to figure out how to tie disparate topics assigned to this section, including Senior Citizen Development and Recycling/Solid Waste with Health and Safety. He presented his notes:

Volunteerism: There is a significant problem with retention in fire and emergency response volunteers. Record keeping and rigorous training and equipment maintenance place a heavy demand on volunteers. Ray feels Emergency and Fire services need their own Comprehensive Plans to look toward the future of services. These services affect all residents in fire insurance rates, etc. Ray suggests that Newfield may need to look at the two major corridors of Rt. 13 and 34/96 having separate paid ambulance service for each.

Emergency Communication: Every home should have access to high-speed internet service. The Town should have a certified emergency response plan and record keeping systems in cooperation with Tompkins County. Ray spoke with a community in Iowa that is the size of Newfield and that uses the internet for community emergency communication and which senior citizens can and do easily use.

Senior Services: Ray also states that an Iowa group is setting up eldercare in rural communities providing 5-20 bed facilities and Hospicare, something Newfield could consider.

Churches need to be better utilized, and social organizations more involved.

State Police/County Sheriff: Response times vary greatly depending on where units are in the county. Is the Town of Newfield willing to pay for a full time service for police protection to be always available? Anticipate response time for current police protection services getting longer and prioritizing calls for service more critical into the future.

Senior Life Alert/Comfort Keepers: Life alert bracelets and other types of services for elderly emergency response could be offered by the Town of Newfield.

Chris inquired as to where orphan services should be in the Plan. Suggestion of dividing public municipal and private service offerings.

Ray asked for a deadline date for submission of a draft if this section to the Planning Board. November 7, 2012 was determined to meet scheduling requirements.

Ray Wheaton's email address: rbw008@yahoo.com

Ray left at 8:00pm.

Discussion and Review: Resources

Natural Resources: Goals/Action items – Randy questioned how specific recommendations should be, so as not to be misconstrued as mandates in the Plan, ie: the statement “to create a tourism board”. Chris stated that goals require public input and will need to be prioritized during the Public Comment period. Concern that action items point to a need for funding, however, objectives inform action items.

The Planning Board needs to agree on the Objectives, action items are merely suggestions as to how to attain the Objectives. Action items are to be left in as suggestions and worded as such.

Gene said he had a problem with statements implying that everything should be preserved as it presently exists. He pointed out that such natural/man made occurrences such as the encroaching Emerald Ash Borer infestation and maple decline will affect our natural environment in the future. Not everything can or should be expected to remain status quo. Nancy stated that protecting biodiversity is important and that it should be strongly stated in the Plan, as surveys showed that the vast majority of Newfield residents value it. Randy questioned the language of some statements as being too explicit. Gene agreed. Gary pointed out the language of “agreements between willing buyers/sellers” as being supportive of a suggested action, however, Gene feels that wording is dictatorial. Randy noted that a large majority of people surveyed said preserving farmland was important. Chris noted that protecting private property rights is discussed in the Plan.

Comments on geological aspects of chapter were given as hardcopy to Nancy by Chris and Randy.

Discussion and Review: Cultural/Historical

Discussion on Churches: Chris included churches as community services and mentioned such as the beneficial services they provide to the community at large, not as an endorsement of specific belief systems.

Chris left at 8:40pm

Discussion and Review: Water/Storm Water/Sewer

Nancy completed major edits and emailed them shortly before this meeting. Gene had not seen the latest edits and discussed some concerns he had with the previous version, particularly involving the language regarding vernal pools. He also thought that information and influence from other sources carried too much weight in the Newfield Plan. Gene will review the latest edited version and get comments to Nancy.

New Business:

Summary of Agenda Items for October 17, 2012 meeting:

- Vote on approval of all sections of Resources Chapter
- Update Work Table
- Create list of guidelines for Town Board to follow in reviewing Plan Chapters.

Motion to Adjourn

Meeting adjourned, 9:00 pm.