



Town of Newfield Planning Board

Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2021

Opening

The regular meeting of the Town of Newfield Planning Board was called to order by Chairman Leo Tidd at 7:01 PM. The meeting was held virtually via ZOOM.

Present

Planning Board: Chairman Leo Tidd, Vice Chairman Jacob Marnell, Randy Brown, Brenda Lapp, Jim Haustein; Town Board: Mike Allinger; Town Code Officer: Alan Teeter; Resident: Vanessa Greenlee. Cornell Design Connect: Anthea Fernandes, Julia Jaffe.

Privilege of the Floor

No items of discussion.

Approval of Minutes

- The March 3, 2021 Minutes were reviewed and approved without modification.

Open Issues

Newfield Hamlet Revitalization Plan (NEWHARP)

- As part of a planned Newfield Hamlet Revitalization Plan, the Town of Newfield Planning Board is working with Cornell Design Connect to being an initial investigation to develop a plan to encourage a walkable, attractive, and vital downtown Hamlet. The Cornell Design Connect project is interviewing key stakeholders to solicit their ideas. Additionally, Design Connect has created an on-line to obtain community input into this initiative. The survey will be open until April 12. 50+ responses have been received to date.
- The Mid-Project Review has been completed. Within the site analysis looked at connectivity, safety, beautification, activity, community. Pedestrian mobility, traffic management, lack of public spaces are challenges. Some town-owned properties (for example, adjacent to the bank) offer some possibilities. The Project is looking at efficiency of parking. Opportunities include traffic intersections redesign, mobility for all user groups and introduction of outdoor activities. One issue of concern are many drivers significantly exceeding the 30 mile-per-hour speed limit.



- The final project meeting date and time needs to be determined. ACTION ITEM: Anthea Fernandes of Cornell Design Connect to work with Jim Haustein on scheduling.

New Business

Site Plan Reviews/Subdivision Applications

No new site plans or subdivision applications were received during March 2021; no site plans or subdivision applications are currently under review.

Review of Building Permits

The Planning Board had no concerns or comments on any of the Building Permits issued during March 2021.

Solar Strategy

Planning Board members have begun review of the Newfield Large-Scale Solar Energy Law (2017-4). The Planning Board is reviewing the draft Caroline Solar Law. This appears to be a very comprehensive document and contains some important salient points that will assist the Newfield Planning Board in making recommendation to the Town Board for updating the Newfield Solar Law. ACTION ITEM: Jim Haustein to review existing Newfield laws regarding the Unified Solar Permit. ACTION ITEM: Planning Board members should review the document edited by Leo Tidd and provide input before April 21.

New York Energy Stretch Code

- The Climate Committee is looking at the NY Energy Stretch Code which is getting a lot of emphasis statewide. This appears to be a modification to the current code with energy saving benefits. The law is applicable to both new construction and additions to existing structures. There are some concerns in the construction industry regarding cost and benefit estimates. Approval would be at the Town level and there are State-provided incentives for early adoption.
- Leo Tidd put forth a motion to recommend to the Town Board that Newfield adopt the Energy Stretch Code. Vote: Aye = Leo Tidd, Randy Brown, Jacob Marnell, Brenda Lapp. Nay = Jim Haustein. Motion passed.

Critical Environmental Areas

Leo Tidd attended a Newfield Town Board meeting which included a presentation of Critical Environmental Areas for Newfield. This is a state-level notation for sensitive areas. Critical Environmental areas should be considered as part of the SEQRA process.



Miscellaneous

Planning Board Membership Terms Expiring

Terms for three of the Planning Board Members (Leo Tidd, Jacob Marnell and Jim Haustein) expire in May. Leo Tidd and Jim Haustein have stated their desire to be considered for an additional 5-year term. Jacob Marnell has indicated he will plan to leave the Planning Board when his term expires. The Planning Board wishes to thank Jake for all the technical expertise, support and work he has performed on behalf of the Planning Board. ACTION ITEM: Jim Haustein to contact Karen Kenerson to include re-appointment of Leo Tidd and Jim Haustein to the Planning Board as an agenda item for the Town Board. ACTION ITEM: Jim Haustein to facilitate posting of the Planning Board opening.

Agenda for Next Meeting

- Review of Site Plan and Subdivision Review Applications Received
- Review of Building Permits
- Newfield Hamlet Revitalization Plan (NEWHARP)
- Solar Strategy
- Planning Board Member Recruitment
- Miscellaneous

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Leo Tidd and seconded by Jim Haustein. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Leo Tidd at 8:32 PM. The next general meeting of the Newfield Planning Board will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. Venue (via ZOOM or at the Town Hall) to be determined.

Submitted by Jim Haustein