

Newfield Planning Board Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2014

Community Organization Collaborative Event

In Attendance:

- **Planning Board:** Nancy Dolge (Chair), Tom Gerow, Jeff Golden, René Borgella, Karen Trask
- **Absent:**
- **Secretary:** Barbara Tefft
- **Also in attendance:** Keri Blakinger – Newfield News, Joanne James – Town Board, Community Organization members

Meeting called to order, 7:05 pm, Newfield Fire Hall.

Introduction: Nancy Dolge

Comments: Jeff Golden, Tom Gerow, René Borgella

Video presentation: Karen Trask

Breakout Group Discussion Notes:

1.) Housing, Community Services, Security

- Is 501c3 status useful to secure grants?
- Grant writing 501c3 not affiliated with government to find funding
- Fulfill small grant needs
- What kind of projects could get grants?
- Library – Karin Eisenberg
 - has 501c3 status
 - Dependent on grants for some additional programs and capital improvements
- Scout projects- Janis Werner and Chris Masotti
 - (town and community service projects)
- Newfield Central School – Cheryl Thoma
 - Partnering with school as 501c3
 - Bringing Comprehensive Plan education to the school
 - School gardening
 - Collaboration between School and Town Recreation Department
- In-kind trades
- Recreation Department – Reid Hoskins
 - Recreation Dept takes advantage of school resources
 - Summer nutrition program
 - Needs: Coaching support, small grants
 - Creation of a Community Center
 - Need for more recreation space
 - See Jean Gerow
- Old Home Days – Jill Green, Susie Chaffee
 - Dependent on school facilities

- Lioness' gave grant money to Old Home Days
- Newfield Night Out – Ken Lansing
 - Sheriff's need help organizing
 - Paula Yolenzas?? Tompkins County website – grant writing resources
 - Marjorie Olds – good grant writer
 - Tompkins County Sheriff's department on limited budget, cut DARE and Night Out
- Fire Department – Lynn Watros and Dylan Watros
 - Volunteer based
 - Operations funded through Town budget
 - Fire hall is Town community center
 - Could use grants to upgrade facilities
 - New facility?
 - Could use people to help with paperwork
 - Facility to workout
 - Bunker program
 - Possible need to coordinate Fire Company needs and Community Center need.

2.) Natural Resources, Agriculture and Forestry

What Groups Do:

- PAUSE – Eva Marques and Marie Terlizzi
 - Hosts events
 - Education on Energy issues, sustainability
 - Solar Tompkins program
 - Connection to Comprehensive Plan:
 - Clean water
 - Energy efficient housing
 - Alternative Energy options
 - Energy development – leased forests via NYS Action Items 20 and 21 potential ties/action items that fit with PAUSE
- Water Sampling – Michelle Henry
 - 7 sites in Newfield beginning 2007
 - Goal to assess quality, maintain and if change, catch and fix asap. Town funded.
- Boy Scouts – Bruce Carter
 - Created Vernal Pool pamphlet
 - Connection to Comp Plan
 - Storm water manager named but not up to speed
 - Action item 20 – Natural Areas Working Group
- New York Forest Owners Association – Lew Ward
 - Educate landowners on how to manage forests
 - Train, tour
 - Help forest owners improve wood lots
 - Restore NY Woodlands program

- Connect to Comprehensive Plan
- Chapter 15 – educational seminars
- Farming
 - Low ability to retain
 - Poor economics now
 - Current farms possibly liquidating
 - Poor production
 - High costs to operate
 - Connect to Comprehensive Plan
 - Conflicts with “preservation” concept
 - Any “new” regulation will hurt economics of farming
 - Insure farmland can be used for another purpose, not necessarily farming
 - Action item 27 – Ag solutions and groups
 - Connect people who want to farm with people who no longer can profitably farm but keep land in production (Farm Connect/Cooperative Extension)

3.) Cultural and Historical Resources

- Tourism
 - What is the objective of tourism in Newfield?
 - Limited historical/cultural draws exist in Newfield to generate economic return.
 - Does Newfield want to promote outside tourism?
 - What kind of tourism?
 - What different attractions can be created?
 - Maple syrup weekend
 - Keep economy of scale in perspective
 - What is scale of interest by Newfield’s small-scale producers?
 - What is capacity of collaboration
 - Start on a smaller basis, see what works, identify what can grow
 - Identify and recruit a volunteer pool
 - Effective communication is a challenge
- Fundraising
 - What are structural challenges to effective fundraising?
 - Grant searches – lack of time and volunteers to write
- Fragmentation of resources
- Fragmentation of communication
- Limited fire hall and school access by public
- Lack of community center
- Recruitment of volunteers
- Advertising and public relations support mechanism needed
- Status of broadband in Newfield?
- Communication – ideas

- “Town Crier”
- Investigate variety of electronic possibilities
- Volunteer recruitment issues
 - time
 - dual/single parents working multiple jobs
 - aging population
 - youth leaving
 - how to match volunteers with organizations
 - community service possible source – Challenge Industries
 - Have a volunteer recruiter present in Newfield.

Next Newfield Planning Board Meeting is October 15, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Newfield Town Hall.

Regular bimonthly meetings will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month.

Motion to Adjourn:

Second:

Approval:

Meeting Adjourned: 9:05 pm