

## Newfield Planning Board Meeting Minutes Approved

December 17, 2014

### In Attendance:

- **Planning Board:** Nancy Dolge (Chair), Tom Gerow, Karen Trask
- **Absent:** René Borgella, without notice
- **Secretary:** Barbara Tefft
- **Also in attendance:** Keri Blakinger, Newfield News, Jeff Golden

Meeting called to order, 7:06 pm, Newfield Town Hall.

### **Minutes of December 3, 2014:**

**Motion to Approve:** Tom

**Second:** Nancy

**Discussion:** Land Use Tools discussion, roundtable vs training session clarification

**Approval:** Unanimous

### New Business:

- Jeff Golden submitted his letter of resignation from the Planning Board. Resignation received and regretfully accepted by the Chair. Planning Board responded with a letter of appreciation and thank you along with Nancy's homemade butter crunch toffee and hugs.
- Planning Board needs to recruit a new board member and will review previous applications. Nancy asked that Planning Board members keep the position in mind when out in the community.
- NYS fracking ban by Governor Cuomo because no studies could confirm that there is absolutely no health risk to residents. No news about duration of ban.
- Planning Board needs to be proactive and broad in addressing potentials issues such as fracking.
- DEC announced Newfield State Plan for Forests. Preliminary plan meeting then a series of meetings for local input to be scheduled. DEC Plan to consider recreation, hunting, skiing, information kiosks,.
- Tom volunteered to review the Newfield Comprehensive Plan Ag and Forestry section and will send comments by the DEC January 8, 2015 deadline.
- Nancy will work with Tom on comments.

### Town Board Report: Nancy

- **Privilege of the Floor:**
  - Bob Mente called to the Town Board's attention a house demolition that buried debris in ground that potentially contained asbestos and lead paint.
  - Brenda Lapp: called to attention that the Town website update notifications were not being consistently sent out.
- **Water District:**
  - Rates going up substantially to cover cost of new municipal water tanks.
  - Kevin Bergren's title is changing to Water Supervisor as well as Highway Superintendent. A second water position was also added.
  - Two new water tanks will be built. They will be gravity run and essentially at the same level, providing service to residences downhill from tanks. Would be expensive to pump water uphill and therefore difficult to expand the water district due to topography.

- **Hamlet Plan:** Cornell DesignConnect hardcopy draft proposal submitted to Town Board and verbally outlined by Barb Tefft and Randy Brown. Town Board expressed support for submission of the proposal.

**Hamlet Report: Barb Tefft**

- Barb sent draft copy of the Newfield Vitalization Committee's Cornell DesignConnect proposal to Planning Board members for review.
- Nancy recommended wording changes for clarification.
- Discussed Open Meetings Law application.

**Community Service Organization Directory:**

- Nancy – need to proofread
- Add date
- Edits discussed

**Land Use Tools: Action Step 1, Newfield Comprehensive Plan**

- Vision discussion at December 3, 2014 Planning Board meeting
- Roundtable/Training
  - Nancy and Tom meeting with Jane Nicholson of Dryden Planning Dept before she retires.
- Karen called Danby with no response. Can only email, not phone Frank Cappa to request participation in a training session.
- Potential training session date late January or February 2015
- Training session discussion of pros/cons of various tools used by other local communities and their experiences. There will be no decisions made or discussion of how Newfield Planning Board members feel about application in Newfield, just information gathering.

**Road Preservation Law: Review and discussion**

- Karen Trask: Who is going to enforce this law? Does not consider the connecting roads with other towns. How do contractors pay for permits when based in a neighboring town but using Newfield's roads extensively in their daily business operations.
- Tom Gerow: This law effectively starts with a trucking contractor notifying the town. Contractor needs to inquire of Town Highway Superintendent if a permit is needed to use Town roads. The law has a very narrow focus to address a specific concern. Potentially negates positive long-term goodwill relationships with small businesses that contribute greatly to the local economy and heavily use roads. Costs billed to small business for permits become prohibitive. Ordinances written in response to a specific situation or randomly enforced become problematic.
- Nancy Dolge: I think it's a good law to cover Town roads, but it does not cover related issues such as traffic noise, etc. It protects Town assets but not the environment or quality of life issues around roads. Law falls short in addressing what the community said it wants protected. This law indicates that the character of our town can be altered if any entity has enough money, regardless of the wants or needs of the town or the vision of the comprehensive plan.
- Recommendations to be made to the Town Board.

**To Do:**

- Recruitment of new Planning Board member
- Karen Trask – contact Danby to participate in training

- Karen Trask – finish Community Organization brochure layout, submit final of spiral bound to Linda Poppleton to post on Town website
- Date for training to be scheduled
- Determine who will be hosting and running the meeting

**Next Newfield Planning Board Meeting is, January 7, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Newfield Town Hall. Regular bimonthly meetings will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month.**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Nancy

**Second:** Karen

**Approval:** Unanimous

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:15 pm