

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NH
Minutes of the Newport Planning Board Meeting
May 3, 2016 – 6:45 P.M.
Board of Selectmen's Room
15 Sunapee Street
Regular Meeting and Public Hearing

MEMBERS PRESENT: Howard Dunn, Chairman; David Burnham, Vice Chairman; Ken Merrow, Bill Walsh, Karen Dewey, David Hoyt, BOS Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Erna McCormick, Alternate; David Kibbey, Alternate; Gary Nichols, BOS Representative, Jeff North

VIDEOGRAPHER: Louis Cassorla, NCTV

STAFF PRESENT: Julie M. Magnuson, Planning and Zoning Administrator; Shane P. O'Keefe, Town Manager; Shawn Tanguay, Town legal counsel; Andrew Livernois, Town legal counsel

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. followed by a roll call.

MINUTES: April 12, 2016

On a motion by Mr. Burnham, seconded by Mr. Merrow; *the Board approved the minutes of the April 12, 2016 meeting as presented. The motion passed 4-0-2 (Walsh and Hoyt abstained).*

ADMINISTRATION: Chairman Dunn addressed the members of the Planning Board and asked if they had any business to bring before the Board.

Mr. Burnham made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Dewey; to remove the Public Comment portion of the Planning Board Rules of Procedure; #6 G. Public comment.

Chairman Dunn addressed Ms. Magnuson and asked to see a copy of the Planning Board Rules of Procedure that had been adopted at the April 12, 2016 Board meeting. Mr. Burnham and Chairman Dunn found and clarified that Public Comments was #6 (g) in the Rules of Procedure (Meetings). Chairman Dunn stated that the motion on the table would result in the deletion of (g). He read the item currently in the Planning Board's Rules of Procedure, "Other Business--Public Comment". Mr. Hoyt addressed the Chair and asked if he would read the entire section. Chairman Dunn complied; reviewing the items listed and emphasized that the Board was acting on, " 6. (g). Public Comment (Note: Public comments shall pertain to topics within the purview of the Planning Board and may be limited to 3 minutes.)." He completed by stating that the last agenda item would be "Adjournment", which would remain. He addressed the Planning Board members and stated that the item under consideration was deleting item 6 (g). He asked if all the Board members understood the motion. He asked if there was any discussion.

There a brief discourse by Mr. Hoyt. Mr. Hoyt stated that as a land-use board, it was his opinion that the Planning Board members could allow or not allow public comment. As a Selectman he felt it was important that public comment should remain on the agenda. Information brought before the Planning Board could add and educate the Planning Board. It was his opinion that public comment should remain as long as comments remain within the purview of the topic being discussed.

Chairman Dunn addressed Mr. Hoyt and stated that “Public Comment” was for topics not being discussed at a Planning Board meeting. There wasn’t a case at the May 3, 2016 meeting. There was no request for action by the Board and therefore no reason for public comment. There were no additional comments by Planning Board members.

Chairman Dunn called for a vote.

On a motion by Mr. Burnham, seconded by Mrs. Dewey; *the Board voted to delete the portion of the Planning Board Rules of Procedure, #6 (g). Public comment (Note: Public comments shall pertain to topics within the purview of the Planning Board and may be limited to 3 minutes.). The motion passed 5-1-0 (Hoyt opposed).*

Chairman Dunn stated that the motion carried five in favor, one opposed. Chairman Dunn addressed Ms. Magnuson and asked if there was any other matter that needed to come before the Board.

Ms. Magnuson addressed Chairman Dunn and stated no. She stated she would revise the current Rules of Procedure to reflect the Board’s vote.

CONTINUED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

OTHER BUSINESS: none

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Mr. Merrow, seconded by Mr. Hoyt; *the Board voted to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. The motion passed 6-0-0.*

Application materials must be received on/before May 17, 2016 for the next regular meeting of the Zoning Board scheduled on June 14, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved on: June 14, 2016