

Minutes of the Planning Board Meeting
Town of Newport
April 16th, 2012

Members Present: Chairman John Davis, Charles Hudson, Cathy Tomon, Mickey Simmons, Manly Smith, Sue Chavez. Staff present: Bob Chambers, Nancy Daffron. Absent: Vice Chairman Bob Benedict, Sammy Hammond.
Public Present: Reporter Mike Shutak, Ken Davis and Grayer Sherrill

Chairman Davis called the meeting of the Planning Board to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Davis asked if there were any changes to the agenda. **Motion to approve agenda by Chuck Hudson, second by Cathy Tomon. Vote: unanimous.**

Chairman Davis asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for January 25th, 2012. **Motion to approve by Chuck Hudson, second by Manley Smith. Vote: unanimous.**

Chairman Davis asked for a motion to excuse Bob Benedict and Sammy Hammond. **Motion to approve by Mickey Simmons, second by Cathy Tomon. Vote: unanimous**

First item on the agenda, "Backyard chickens in the Town of Newport." Grayer Sherrill gave a presentation and, using an example from Raleigh, a sample draft chicken ordinance. Mickey Simmons said his presentation was done very well. Bob Chambers explained in detail about the Heath/Nuisance Ordinance. Chairman Davis asked the planning board members for their thoughts on the subject. The consensus of the group was not to change the ordinance at this time. It was suggested by Ken Davis that this issue be addressed at the scheduled public hearing on the revised zoning ordinance on June 14, 2012 at 6 pm. Chairman Davis recommended that Mr. Sherrill come to the public hearing as well. Mr. Sherrill stated that "he hoped everyone would look his presentation over and consider this and respectfully recommended that with more research taking this as far as it goes, maybe one day he'll be allowed to have chickens in the the City of Newport." Chairman Davis closed this portion and both Grayer Sherrill and Ken Davis thanked the Planning Board.

Last item on the agenda was feral cats. Sue Chavez spoke about her concerns on this. While on her evening walks, she noticed next to Cowell Cleaners a lot of feral cats and a lot of food and drinking containers. Also, in addition to that a lot of seagulls were eating the cat food. Bob Chambers stated that there currently is nothing in the health/nuisance or zoning ordinance that deals with this. It was suggested to contact animal control. As Mr. Chambers understood, she would have to trap them and contact animal control.

Chairman Davis asked if there were any other issues or news. Chuck Hudson asked how the Hospice House was going. Bob Chambers said "it was coming up out of the ground and all permits were already written."

Motion to adjourn by Charles Hudson, second by Mickey Simmons. Vote: unanimous.

Adjourned: 6:10 pm.

Nancy Daffron
Clerk

John Davis
Chairman

