

Town of New Haven Joint Boards Meeting
7:00 pm
Monday, September 12, 2022
Town Offices

Selectboard members: Chair, John Roleau, Vice Chair, Bruce Many, Kathy Barrett, Taborri Bruhl and Steve Dupoise

Development Review Board members: Kathy Barrett, Victor LaBerge and Carol Charbonneau (zoom)

Planning Commission members: Co-Chair, Kathy Cahill, Co-chair, Rob Litch, Benj Putnam, Maggie Eaton, Bev Landon (zoom), Megan Ooms(zoom) and Betsy Taylor (zoom)

Zoning Administrator: Peggy Connor

Selectboard Assistant: Pam Kingman

Absent: Charlie Roy, Tom Fyles, Paul Audy, Roger Hamilton and Don Johnston

Visitors: Amanda Bodell

The purpose of this meeting is to have a round table discussion about the Unified Bylaws draft and setting goals for the adoption process.

Selectboard Chair, John Roleau opened the meeting at 7:03 pm, and asked for an update as to where the PC is regarding updating the Bylaws.

Kathy Barrett said she has attended many Planning Commission (PC) meetings and wanted to commend the PC on the progress made on the Unified Bylaws. Moving forward she would like to see the PC hold its first hearing this year. She suggested if they can't complete a section, to take it off their list and move on, it has been 10 years since any amendments have been made and added it has been frustrating as a Development Review board (DRB) member. The Town Plan will need to be voted on at Town Meeting, which is March of 2025; the Planning Commission and the Selectboard each need to hold public hearings on the amendments to the Unified Bylaws, both of which need to be completed to compliment the Town Plan.

Steve Dupoise said get done what you've gotten done and move on. This is an ever-changing document; he encouraged the PC to move forward.

Rob Litch said he feels several things have set them back such as the many solar arrays, Covid and employee changeover at Regional Planning.

Benj Putnam backed up what Rob said, there has also been a high turnover of Zoning Administrators. He said Peggy Connor has been a solid presence, and she is making them move forward.

Kathy Cahill said they are really struggling with defining Affordable Housing, and don't want to piecemeal things.

Peggy Connor suggested devising a list of what needs further research, she doesn't think the list will be long.

Rob Litch said the biggest issue has been the zoning map; he said once they have a good map, they can move forward. The PC members have sent it to ACRPC with specific updates / changes and it will come back with those changes done, however it also comes back with new changes that were not requested; so, they are left starting over.

Discuss the frustrations the PC is feeling which then trickles down to the DRB who are also getting frustrated, because they are charged with enforcing the Bylaws. It was reiterated that this is a living document that will always be a work in progress.

Betsy Taylor said she is feeling frustrated, feels like they move slowly and make little progress.

Peggy Connor said she will invite Regional Planning's new GIS planner, Hanna Andrew to upcoming PC meetings to focus on the zoning districts map changes.

All members of the Planning Commission agree the map has been their biggest challenge.

John Roleau said he doesn't want the PC to feel like this meeting was coming across the wrong way, and that they are not doing their job. He said he has learned a lot from this meeting. He suggested the PC pinpoint the problem areas, focus on those at their

meetings, get 5 out of 10 things done. If they can't find common ground, then move on to the next item.

Discussed Planning Grant offered through ACRPC. At this time the PC feels they are too far advanced to bring someone else in.

Rob Litch said he feels the 2 biggest issues are 1) Affordable Housing, and 2) Zoning Map. He feels strongly that the map takes precedence.

Maggie Eaton said they need to work on each section, get them done and bring forward for approval.

Peggy Connor suggested including only one item on the agenda for PC meetings.

Benj Putnam agreed with Peggy's idea and said the PC should come up with a list of remaining items requiring further research and discussion.

Next PC meetings, focus will be on updating the zoning map / continue to meet 2x a month / come up with a list of things to work on and a list of things to set aside / review the approval process

*Rob Litch left the meeting at 7:45 pm

Discussion about the zoning map and changes the PC would like to see, especially concerning frontage and depth.

Adjourn: 7:57 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Pam Kingman

Approved on 9-20-22

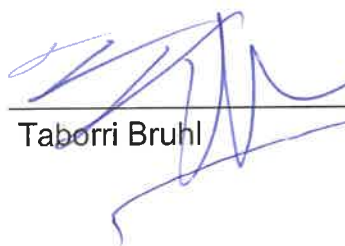
Chair, John Roleau



Vice Chair, Bruce Many



Kathy Barrett



Taborri Bruhl



Steve Duprise

