

New Castle City Planning Commission Meeting
Minutes
July 25, 2016 -- 6:30 p.m.
City of New Castle Town Hall

Members Present: Michael Quaranta, Chair
David Baldini, Vice Chair
David Bird
Jonathan Justice
Josephine Moore

Members Absent: Joseph DiAngelo
Gail Seitz
Florence Smith
Vera Worthy

Also present: Debbie Turner, Stenographer

Mr. Quaranta called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Roll call followed.

Public Comments – None.

Minor Subdivision Review – West 4th Street and South Street; Parcel 21-015.30-104 (Parcel A) Trustees of the New Castle Common; Parcel 21-015.30-098 (Parcel C) James R. Keller & Sharon W. Keller – Mr. Quaranta reported that a letter was received from City Planner Chris Rogers of AECOM stating they have reviewed the application with consideration to current zoning and Mr. Rogers has no objections to approval of the subdivision plan. Mr. Quaranta referenced an email received from City Inspector Jeff Bergstrom indicating his review of the subject plan. He offered no additional comments on AECOM's review and has given his approval of the application.

Thomas Clayton appeared on behalf of Good Will Fire Co. The piece of property involved is 15 ft. X 40 ft. and is located at the rear of 70 West 4th Street. Good Will Fire Co. plans to use the area to house trash bins that are currently out in the open and make a portion of the space a smoking and recreational area for fire company members. The parcel has no structures on it.

Mr. Baldini made a motion to make a recommendation to City Council to approve the subdivision as presented to the Planning Commission. Mr. Justice seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Commissioners Comments

Mr. Bird – He commented on the increase in pedestrian/vehicle traffic in the City attributed in part to a digital game. While it is good to see more people in the City, a number of safety concerns were noted. Some of the concerns mentioned include inattentive driving, driving the wrong direction on one-way streets, people crossing streets without regard for oncoming traffic, and an increase in litter. Mr. Bird has not seen any parking problems

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2016

associated with the increase in visitors. Mr. Bird commented on the addition of a median on Route 9 in Dobbinsville saying it has been effective in decreasing speeding in the area. An increase in police enforcement is also being done.

Mr. Baldini – He would like the City Planner to provide a list of deadlines to track progress during the Comprehensive Plan Update. He also wants to see a concise, one-page flowchart developed showing how issues come before the Planning Commission and how those issues are handled. Mr. Quaranta asked Mr. Baldini to compose an email clarifying what he would like to see included on the list of deadlines and forward to fellow commissioners for their review and comment. That information will be provided to AECOM and the City for their review and approval.

Mr. Quaranta – Mr. Quaranta reminded commissioners that the City Comprehensive Plan Update is due in 2019. A list of deadlines the Planning Commission needs to meet will help maximize funds budgeted for the work. Mr. Quaranta wants to provide an updated Comprehensive Plan draft to City Council for review with time built in for any modifications that Council may request. Updates to the Plan are required by the State.

Minutes – Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes of the 6/27/16 meeting were approved.

The Planning Commission's next meeting is 8/22/16. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.