

Newton Planning Commission Meeting
March 14th, 2024, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT

Minutes

Agenda

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Opening Ceremony Jadd Shelton
3. Approval of February 2024, minutes
4. Dog Kennel Permits Review
5. Draft Animal Code
6. Adjourn

1. Roll Call: Jadd Shelton, Justin Cooley, Cass Bleazard, Holly Call, Karla Ferguson, Tasma Taylor, Brett Petersen, John and Christine Soule

2. Opening Ceremony – by Jadd Shelton

3. Minutes for February 2024- approved

4. Dog Kennel Permits Review- Mark/Quaid Rigby's returned neighbor letters specify in the conditions that barking needs to be controlled. Barking mitigation requirements have been worded in the past as "barking mitigation measures need to be taken" and Planning Commission asked owners how barking would be controlled. The Planning Commission can say "no uncontrolled barking for x amount of time" and The Commission can also let the citizen know that animal control can check in with them about measures being taken. The next step is to send the Rigby's a letter and explain that there were a lot of concerns expressed by neighbors and then address the concerns. The Commission can put a time for when the Rigby's will be evaluated. The dog kennel licenses are usually reviewed in December by the Planning Commission and they can revoke kennel license if the specified measures were not taken. Karla suggested having the animal control officer do an evaluation. Jadd asked if it would be appropriate to ask Rigby's to come to the next Planning Commission meeting to work out what the conditions may be. Karla said yes, that would be a good idea, then discussion can happen and a decision can be made. A kennel permit can be denied if steps are not taken. Plan to put it on the agenda for April and have someone contact Rigby's to ask them to be here for that meeting. Justin said will contact them. Brandon Taylor's kennel license approved, John and Christine Soule's kennel license approved.

5. Draft Animal Code Review- Jadd stated that he got a hold of Mendon and it seems that it's more of a judicious decision of the board in deciding the town's Animal Code. He feels we will have higher numbers than Mendon. There isn't enough scientific data to support specific numbers. Jadd suggested we use input from the Town Council as well. Jadd clarified they are trying to stay away from conditional use permit in regard to the animal code. The Commission mentioned the possibility of having farmers and animal owners give opinions since no one on the Commission has animals or expertise

in that area. Brett suggested to do two versions-one that is less restrictive and another that is more restrictive, then have a public meeting during Town Council to get input from citizens about the two different versions. Holly stated that they can write into the code what mitigations and measures must be taken to be in compliance. This would protect those with animals and makes it so the numbers can be higher. Martin came in at 7:42. Jadd asked who would be in charge of making a decision regarding nuisance. Holly stated that it should be the mayor because he is the nuisance officer. Having a more lenient code will allow for those who are good stewards to have the animals they want. Citizens must show steps to take to come in compliance. Brett stated that in the code book there is some very specific language regarding animals as well as really broad language which allows for interpretation. The Commission may need to go back in and change the language in the nuisance side that is more specific in order to give the Town authority to reduce problem situations. Jadd asked how they determine a nuisance and who goes in to address it. Only a dangerous or vicious animal would be addressed by the county officer and they mostly deal with dogs. The Mayor would bring up the situation with the Town Council if there is a nuisance and they would discuss how to approach it. It was suggested to take the current numbers in the code draft of allowed animals and multiply by 3. Martin feels one year is too aggressive to have to be in compliance after the code is passed. The Commission discussed the possibility of a conditional use permit for those who have a high number of animals currently and would not be in compliance after the animal code was passed. The Commission brought up again having options #1 and #2 and let Town Council decide if they want two. Holly wants just one solid one and see where it goes. Jadd feels Commission doesn't have enough animal experience to know. Holly said we need to figure out points a bit better for each individual animal before taking it to the Town Council. The Commission said the purpose of the Animal Ordinance is to allow those who are good stewards to have more animals and protect against nuisance. Brett stated that we need Code to protect the Town and provide boundaries. Martin added this is one of the reasons the Commission started the animal code. The Commission suggested that they ask the Town Council how many years they should give to come in compliance as well as animal points numbers. The Commission wanted to ask those with animals (Kevin Rhodes, Jackie Jones, Mike Benson, Kyle Anderson, Tammy MacDonald, Craig Benson) to come into the next meeting with experience to give input about animals. Members offered to invite these individuals to the next Planning Commission meeting in April.

6.Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28

Minutes prepared by: _____
Tasma Taylor, Assistant Newton Town Clerk Approval Date _____