

Newton Planning Commission Meeting
June 13, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT

Minutes

Agenda

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Approval of May 2019 minutes
3. Draft Animal Ordinance Review
4. Draft land management and development code review
5. Adjournment

Members present: Justin Cooley, Dale Mohlman, and Deb Simpson. Reid Smith attended electronically by conference call. Absent: Kevin Parkinson

Karla Ferguson (Recorder)

Others Present: Kathryn Rigby

1. Opening Ceremony by Dale Mohlman

2. Minutes for May 9, 2019 approved.

3. Draft Animal Ordinance Review- Two different drafts of animal ordinance that were drafted in 2012 were discussed. The drafts were initially proposed and reviewed by the Newton Town Council but then the work on the animal ordinance was stopped. It was discussed that animal ordinances should be in place in order to control and protect those with animals. Justin Cooley stated that we need to find a balance in allowing animals and protecting neighbors. Justin Cooley recently attended the land use training given by Utah League of Cities and Towns. Justin feels we need to continue to work on and updated the general plan because it should be reviewed every five years. The details should be in our ordinances that are made from the general plan. Deb Simpson said she likes the draft animal ordinance with a point system because it give flexibility. Others wondered if it made it too confusing and if we should just allow a set number of animals. A few other communities' animal ordinances (Kanab, Mendon and Nibley) were looked at and discussed. Reid Smith discussed grandfathering in those that already have animals. It was discussed that we don't want to blanket grandfather in all things but should address problem areas and perhaps issue conditional use permits. Justin Cooley discussed that we need to enforce it completely for all residents and who would enforce it. Deb Simpson suggested we look at Nibley, Hyde Park, Millville and Hyrums' animal ordinances for further discussion. Kathryn Rigby asked about allowing additional animals temporarily such as 4-H animals. Kathryn also stated that she thinks the town needs an animal ordinance to protect everyone. It was discussed that more lots are being developed and we need to look at pasture size and guidelines for how much land animals need. Each Planning Commission member was encouraged to look up animal ordinances and bring to next meeting to discuss. More research for dog breeders and requirements are also needed.

4. Draft Land Management and Development Code Review – Deb Simpson discussed her findings in reviewing the document. Deb liked the subdivision chapter but it is an onerous chapter and excessive for what we need but covers development in the right direction. Planning Commission members were encouraged to still review their assigned chapters and report. The survey that was completed by the Planning Commission in 2011 was discussed. Karla Ferguson was assigned to email the survey results to members to review.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by: _____
Karla R. Ferguson, Newton Town Clerk

Approval Date