

Newton Planning Commission Meeting
August 19, 2021, 7:00 P.M.
Newton Town Hall, 51 South Center, Newton UT
Minutes

Agenda

1. Opening Ceremony/Roll Call
2. Approval of July Minutes
3. Draft ordinance review for dark skies code
4. Conditional use review discussion
5. Adjournment

1. Roll Call/Opening Ceremony – Cole Richards.

Members present: Martin Empery, Randy Christensen, Justin Cooley, and Cole Richards. Karla Ferguson (Recorder) Absent: Reid Smith

Others present: Kevin Rhodes, Doug Anderson, DeeDee Anderson, Cheryl Fillmer, Holden Fillmer, Lauren Ryan, Gordon Anderson, and Kent Fabricius.

2. Minutes for July 2021 approved.

Other business: Doug and DeeDee Anderson would like the Newton Planning Commission to again address the request that was made by the Anderson's in 2017 about the proposed splitting of their lot located at 485 West 300 South. The problem with splitting their lot is that the road right-of-way of 300 South for that section has never been deeded over to the town from when the land was initially subdivided back in the year 2000. The Anderson's showed documents of a legal description for the road right-of-way that was never signed or recorded by property owner Terry Griffin. The history of the annexation and subdivision of the Griffin property from 2000 was reviewed. The Anderson's have a preliminary plan and survey completed for their proposed lot split but they cannot do anything until they have street frontage. Kevin Rhodes suggested that the Andersons again talk to Terry Griffin about deeding the property to the town for a road right-of-way. More research will be done on what was agreed upon and discussed in prior meetings and it will be put on next month's agenda.

3. Draft ordinance review for dark skies code- Justin Cooley discussed protecting the town skies from light contamination by having down facing lights. Lauren Ryan, Cache County Planner, volunteered that she has some dark sky ordinances that she could bring to the subdivision workshop to review. Kevin Rhodes said that under this ordinance all of the town street lights and town hall lighting would be in violation. Kevin Rhodes asked how they want to handle all of the current lighting that is in violation. Justin Cooley discussed how this ordinance could be towards new construction and as lights are replaced they would comply with the code. Justin Cooley discussed that dark skies ordinances help keep rural atmosphere. Funding grants to replace lighting was discussed.

4. Conditional use review discussion - Justin Cooley discussed that he has received complaints about residents living in trailers on property. Justin explained that some have conditional use permits for temporary dwellings that can be renewed annually up to 4 times. A list of those current permits and making sure they are renewed annually was requested. It was discussed that Reid Smith's family is living in a trailer that does not have a conditional use permit. Martin Empery will write a letter citing the code sections in violation to send to Reid Smith.

The meeting adjourned.

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

Approval Date