

Ryan Knapp, Chair  
Phil Carroll, Vice Chair  
Neil Chaudhary  
Joe Girgasky  
Mary Ann Jacob  
Eva Bermudez



3 Primrose Lane  
Newtown, CT. 06470  
Tel. (203) 270-4210  
www.newtown-ct.gov

## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Draft Minutes of the Legislative Ordinance Committee Meeting

The Ordinance Committee met on Wednesday July 22nd, 2015 in Meeting Room 1 of the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Lane, Newtown. Committee Chairman Ryan Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Present: Ms Jacob, Mr. Carroll, Ms. Bermudez, Mr. Girgasky and Mr. Knapp.  
Absent: Mr. Chaudhary

Also in attendance: None.

MINUTES: Mr. Girgasky motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of 7/08//2015. Mr. Carroll seconded. Ms. Bermudez noted a spelling error with her name which Mr. Knapp apologized for. All in favor (5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

### **New Business**

#### Review and recommendation regarding term limits on the Sustainable Energy Commission.

Mr. Knapp opened discussion with the language in the Code Book related to term limits on Sustainable Energy. Confusing language which could be interpreted as three one year terms or three three year terms.

Ms. Jacob noted that many other Commissions do not have term limits. Would like to see the language cleaned up.

Ms. Bermudez asked about how reappointments are done. Ms. Jacob discussed the role of the Selectman and the town Committees in that process.

Group was open to eliminating term limits.

Mr. Knapp will talk to legal and come back with new language for discussion.

#### Review of purchasing regulations.

Mr. Knapp opened discussion with the language in the Code Book related to purchasing regulations. Noted that Bob Tait said he would like to see them more in line with the BOE and he would get a model.

Ms. Jacob noted that be BOE will not be done with their purchasing policy for a few months. Suggested inviting Mr. Tait as well as members of other boards to our next meeting.

### **Old Business**

#### Review and recommendation regarding a possible new alarm ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on February 18, 2015.

Mr. Knapp opened the discussion with a draft ordinance revision B based on what was discussed in the previous meeting. The group went line by line through the draft making some major changes mostly related to eliminating or clarifying sections.

Question as to differentiate between false and nuisance alarms? No need to for the purpose of tracking alarms which the PD responds to that are not actual events.

Eliminate Alarm User Awareness Class. Seems burdensome for the PD.

Discussion over who makes the decision if a false alarm is “not reasonable to subject to control by the alarm user”.

Discussion over Permit year and having permits start on the same date. Either July 1<sup>st</sup> or Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

Group felt the purpose of this is to reduce false alarms, not to be a guide for best practices. Will reduce much of that language as alarm users and installers do not change behavior from town to town.

Discussion over voice dialers. Modern online functions.

Discussion over permit numbers. Name and address should be sufficient.

Eliminating duplicate sections.

Alarm monitoring companies unlikely to comply with these ordinances and will not alter behavior town by town.

Need for including the duties of the alarm administrator was questioned. Ordinance, not a job description.

104-8 to be combined with 104-13

Combine both appeals sections and replace with new language referencing standard process. Move appeals to the end.

Mr Knapp will make the changes. Once we have a working document, the committee will circle back with the Chief and legal.

Review and recommendation regarding a possible unsolicited mail ordinance per the charge set forth by the Legislative Council on February 18, 2015.

Mr. Knapp noted he is still awaiting a response regarding altering the definition of litter.

An amendment enabling the municipal option of Public Act No. 13-224, providing a tax exemption for One Hundred Percent Disabled Veterans as referred to the Ordinance Committee by the Legislative Council during the regular meeting of January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Mr. Knapp reported legal is still reviewing the enabling language.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Ms. Jacob motioned to adjourn at 9:10pm. Mr Carroll seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan W. Knapp  
Ordinance Committee Chairman