Vice-Chairman Michael Camillo called the special meeting of the Newington Town Plan and Zoning Commission to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Conference Room L101 in the Newington Town Hall, 131 Cedar Street, Newington, Connecticut.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL AND SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Commissioners Present

Vice-Chairman Michael Camillo
Commissioner Anthony Claffey
Commissioner Michael Fox
Commissioner Domenic Pane
Commissioner Robert Serra
Commissioner Stanley Sobieski
Commissioner Stephen Woods
Commissioner John Bottalico-A

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Hyman Braverman-A
Commissioner Giangrave-A

Staff Present

Craig Minor, Town Planner

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Officers – Chairman and Vice Chairman

Vice-Chairman Camillo: We have election of officers, Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Fox: I think the Town Planner should conduct the nominations for Chairman.

Commissioner Pane: Mr. Chairman, can we have a discussion of whether or not this falls within our by-laws?

Vice-Chairman Camillo: Yes. Any discussion on this, the by-laws?

Commissioner Claffey: My only question that I asked earlier in the day of the Town Planner to have our zoning by-laws tonight, after reading them, it seems that we filled the vacant spot, an unfortunate vacant spot by Frank’s passing, we filled that vacant spot and the Vice-Chairman acts in his absence, unless prohibited by statute, and that would be something that I would have to ask Mr. Minor if there is a prohibition by statute. Any other proceedings of adding or deleting people of this Commission come actually early in December after the elections. Any discussion?
Commissioner Fox: I don’t see discussion of the by-laws on the agenda, for one thing.

Commissioner Claffey: I don’t think this Commission has ever had to deal with the death of a member. They took action last meeting, I wasn’t here, but there was action taken to fill the seat, and why at that time didn’t we discuss as a Commission the appointing of a new Chairman or new Vice-Chairman, that was really more to the point. People voted in a position, was filled by a spot, and at that time should have had a special meeting to designate a Chairman or Vice-Chairman. I don’t know why we had to have a special meeting. That’s all.

Vice-Chairman Camillo: I have one thing. If a president dies, the vice-president steps in, there is no action. The Chairman passes away, it says here the Vice-Chairman takes his spot. That is the discussion. You are going to do what you want to do any how. So that is why we are talking about it. Is there any other discussion from anybody else?

Commissioner Sobieski: I thought we had this when Dave Pruett took over, for somebody, if I’m not mistaken.

Commissioner Pane: Not as an officer as I recall.

Commissioner Sobieski: I believe he was, I believe he stepped in as Chairman.

Commissioner Pane: I don’t know, I agree with Anthony I think the by-laws are pretty clear. It says the officers of the Town Planning and Zoning Commission shall be: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The Chairman shall have the duties normally conferred by parliamentary usage. The Vice-Chairman shall act for the Chairman in his absence except where prohibited by statue. The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records of the Commission (assisted by the Town Planner and other Staff) and shall read communications, rules of procedure of meetings, and petitions into the record.

Nominations of officers shall be made from the floor at the annual organizational meeting held on the second Wednesday of December each year.

Vice-Chairman Camillo: And there are two meetings left, so we are trying to figure out what’s the rush here.

Commissioner Fox: You failed to read the last sentence here, Vacancies in office shall be filled by a similar nomination and election procedure. So there is a vacancy in this office.

Commissioner Pane: So a person has been appointed to sit on our board, and vacancy, and the Vice-Chairman has taken the Chairman’s role over, so the only position that we are missing I believe is the Vice-Chairman role and……

Commissioner Fox: No, not the Chairman, the acting Chairman.

Commissioner Pane: It says the vice-chairman shall act for the chairman in his absence, so the vice-chairman becomes the chairman and that is according to Robert’s Rules also.

Commissioner Fox: Can you quote Robert’s Rules?

Commissioner Pane: Beg your pardon?

Commissioner Fox: Can you quote the rule?
Commissioner Pane: I would have to look that up, but it is in Robert’s Rules. Vacancies in the office shall be filled in a similar nomination and election procedure, so similar nomination I would think would be on an annual basis. It doesn’t say anything different.

Commissioner Fox: I was, I would interpret that to mean that the vacancy should be filled in a similar process as that is used, at the organization meeting, not necessarily just the organizational meeting, as an overall general procedure.

Commissioner Claffey: The question for the Planner, the question that I did ask him, and he was doing something on his computer, is there prohibited by statute that you know of in this reading of the Officers, 1.1, that the Vice-chairman shall act for the Chairman in his absence except where prohibited by statute. Do you know of any, as the town Planner?

Craig Minor: No, there is no prohibition.

Vice-Chairman Camillo: I talked to two other lawyers today too, and we come up with the same thing. They said the election for the vacancy was for the vacancy. The election of officers is once a year on the second Wednesday of Oct......

Commissioner Fox: Can I ask question Mr. Acting Chairman?

Vice-Chairman Camillo: Yes.

Commissioner Fox: What is all the activity going on here to prevent a simple little election to fill a vacancy?

Vice-Chairman Camillo: Can I ask one too, why is it so important to fill that.....

Commissioner Fox: Because we don’t have a Chairman. We have an Acting Chairman.

Commissioner Woods: Shall we table this until we have the Town Attorney here?

Craig Minor: I have an opinion from the Town Attorney.

Commissioner Pane: But we need a chance to ask him questions, or to discuss our position on it with him so that we have a complete understanding ....

Commissioner Claffey moved to table the discussion of election of a Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pane. The motion was defeated on a vote of three in favor and four opposed. (Fox, Sobieski, Woods, Serra).

Commissioner Pane: I’d like to nominate Steve Woods, Commissioner Woods as Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Claffey.

Vice-Chairman Camillo: Any other nominations, any other nominations?

Commissioner Fox: I’d like to nominate Stan Sobieski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Serra.

Vice-Chairman Camillo: Any other nominations? Any other nominations. The nominations are closed.

After a roll call vote, Commissioner Sobieski was elected Chairman.
Vice-Chairman Camillo: Is there a motion to adjourn?

Commissioner Claffey moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Nona Addis,
Recording Secretary