MINUTES

TOWN OF NEWPORT ZONING BOARD MEETING

JUNE 3RD, 2025 AT 5:30 PM

NEWPORT CENTER TOWN CLERK’S OFFICE

TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE SLEEPER POND DAM ON THE CROSS ROAD AND RIVER RESTORATION. Sleeper pond dam is VT #142.01

Present: Jeff Hall, Bruce Sargent, Ernest Choquette, Glen Foster, and Ed Champine of the Zoning Board. Oscar Roberts, Zoning Administrator. Doug Osborn, engineer for SLR Engineering. Ellen Fox, Missisquoi River Basin Association.

First order of business was to reorganize the Zoning Board. This was the first Zoning Board meeting since the 2025 Town Meeting.

Results: Glen Foster, Chair

Ernest Choquette, Vice Chair

Ed Champine, Secretary

Application submitted by Town of Newport Selectboard. Sasha Pealer, Northeaster River Scientist and Floodplain Manager at the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources recommended the town get a conditional use for the project. The Missisquoi River Basin Association was the impetus for the project with the Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines and recommendations to reduce flooding.

Ellen Fox said 8,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed from the area of Mud Creek. Sediment will be tested for contaminants. Sediment will be disposed of within the town but not on agricultural land.

Doug Osborn said there are water lines running under the pond that will be encased and protected. Doug Osborn said that bridge embankments will be protected with rip-rap.

Zoning board members agreed with the recommendations of Sasha Pealer. A copy of her recommendations is available in the project file at the Town Office.

The board reviewed Section 307.5 Conditional Use Review Procedures for Flood Hazard development even though this isn’t really development. Doug Osborn said the necessary state permits are in hand and federal permits are in the works. Standards in 307.4 were found to be not applicable to this case.

Jeff Hall moved that we approve the conditional use permit for the removal of the Sleeper Pond Dam as submitted. Bruce Sargent seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The permit was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.