

**Good Morning! Welcome to Newport, Vermont.** My name is Patricia Sears and I am the executive director of Newport City Renaissance.

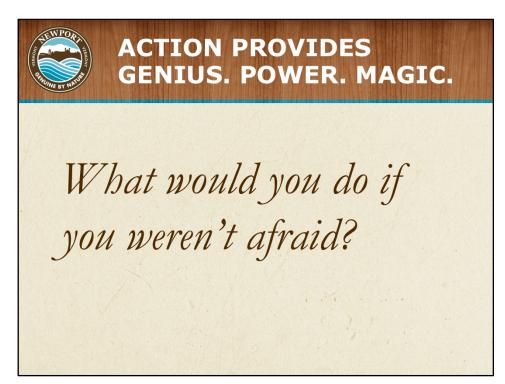
Newport City Renaissance (NCRC) serves as a catalyst for transforming Newport's community and economic development to develop Newport as a destination for tourism and business investment by improving Newport's quality of life.

## We believe in being ready for success.

We believe that the only thing we know about the future is that it will be *different* and the best way to *predict* the future is to <u>create</u> it.

We believe we have the Power to Create the Future.

We believe we have found the recipe. Because Newport City Renaissance has established a brand -- <u>Newport. Genuine by Nature</u>. -- that came from the participation of our partners from the Newport community.



Because some community members feel these historic and robust rapid developments are happening 'To' Them, -- we work in partnership with the community justice center in providing a monthly community commons meeting for exchanging information --- and reminding people they have the power to advance positive change in their neighborhood, -- in their downtown, -- in the city where they live, work and play.

The community is asking for more information to better understand the impacts -- so we can be better prepared to plan for housing, transportation, education, and jobs.

We also want to be the strongest advocates for the most robust highspeed broadband internet service -- and a downtown that is a center for entrepreneurship.

We want to be BEST prepared for <u>the success of \$20M+ investment in economic development</u> -- happening in only 3 years... between 2014 - 2017. -- For example, we want to know more about the biotech industry to prepare for <u>the jobs</u>, the <u>new businesses</u> and the <u>new employees</u>.



For those of us who live, work and play here now ... as well as the new people who will move here to join these new opportunities... today, we're introducing Newport Vermont as a destination for

- healthy
- active
- · living.

Brought to you by our assets that make Newport. Genuine by Nature.

The coolest thing -- is the community works together to advance positive change.

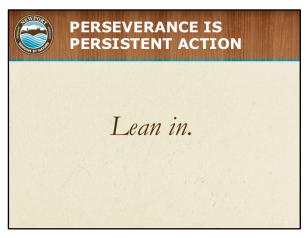
- · Community gardens.
- · Downtown restaurants.
- Farms in neighboring communities.
- · Kingdom Velo Group.
- The City government.
- Newport City Renaissance Economic Restructuring Committee
- VT Fish & Wildlife
- AARP
- Newport Community Justice Center
- Newport City Renaissance Design Committee

*Think about this*: In 2007, Newport was the last municipality in the state to get VT Downtown status. We are done with being 'last in the state'.

- 1. Newport was the *first* municipality in the state of Vermont to receive a grant from the American Institute of Architects (AIA).
- 2. Newport is the *first* municipality in the state to adopt Form Based Code.
- 3. Newport has 2 out of 4 hub zones in Vermont's *first* Alternate Site Framework Foreign Trade Zone.

## How do we do this?

- 1. We turn over stones ...
- 2. We collect the dots ...
- 3. We connect the dots. As an independent non-profit organization we need your support to continue this work.



## **Why**? Because Community Matters.

So, in March 2009 AIA brought 7 experts on a Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team to Newport for 5 days. -- They listened and listened. -- They wrote a smart report with illustrations of great recommendations. --- One of the recommendations was to *adopt form-based code to promote mixed-use buildings*. Because Community Matters.

- 1. In January 2010, the Design Committee started meeting every Friday morning at 8a to develop form-based code. We learned a lot.
- 2. By July 2010, we presented what we developed to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission edited it so it fit completely with Newport's zoning manual.
- 3. On December 6th 2010, the Newport City Council adopted Form Based Code. *Newport is the first and only municipality in the state of VT to adopt form-based code*. Because Community Matters.

Form-Based Code now informs the developments of the Renaissance Block and Waterfront Marina Resort & Conference Center. *Right now,* form-based Code allows for the Northeast Kingdom Tasting Center to incorporate

- manufacturing (producing ice cider) in the basement,
- retail (including a bistro) on the street-level, and
- offices on the 3rd floor. -- And there's also the possibility of a roof



- ~ 100s of Newport City Renaissance volunteers serving on committees
- ~ Colleagues
- ~ City of Newport, State of Vermont, US Government
- ~ Private Businesses
- ~ Inspired Philanthropists

It's all about Participatory Partnerships.

In June 2011, members of the R/UDAT returned to assess and evaluate progress and lack thereof.

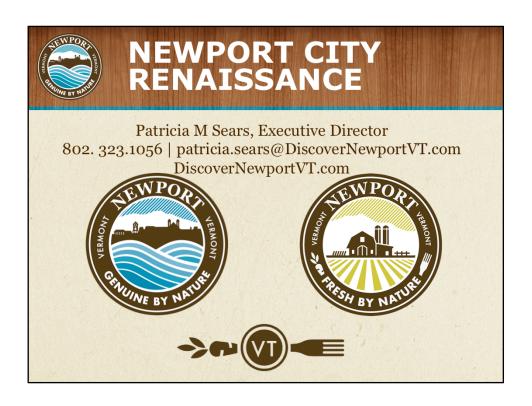
At one of the public workshops, Mayor Monette stated, "One of the most important things that has happened has been <u>the partnership that's</u> <u>developed between the public and private sector.</u>"

Historically, the attitude has been that nothing ever happens here. *Partnerships* have changed that.

When you have people working <u>together</u>, things can happen and do happen.

And <u>that</u> is the most important thing that has happened here – a change in attitude. All of a sudden, nothing is impossible. Because Community Matters.

~ As an independent nonprofit organization we need <u>your</u> support to sustain this important work. ~ Thank you.



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