

ORIGINAL

PC Members: Rob Litch, Chair, Benjamin (Benj) Putnam, V.Chair, Bev Landon, and Dan Monger
Others: John Madden **PC Staff:** Dave Wetmore

Rob called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Dave Wetmore took minutes. The agenda was posted.

I. Adjustments to Agenda/Visitor:

1. Adjustments- none

- 2. Visitors' Business:** John Madden- presented handout for PC review. This is a revised handout from the one he shared at Town Meeting.

II. PC BUSINESS

- 1. Town Plan update-** PC discussed Town Meeting discussion related to Town Plan adoption. Dave raised the question about when is the Town Plan adopted? After vote by community or after review by DPS and ACRPC? Benj read from the statute and it appears to be upon approval by Town vote. Dave shared that he understood that DPS and ACRPC has been notified of the adoption of the Town Plan. He was not sure of the Dept. Housing and Community Affairs. Beverly expressed concern about poll operations.
- 2. Energy Updates-** nothing new to report.
- 3. Bylaw Updates-**

Dave shares copies of the most recent amendment bylaw draft dated 8/23/2016. Dave also contacted Brandy to see if she will continue to work with us on the amendment process? The points he made to Brandy included

- a. Unified Bylaw- SD, Zoning and updated Flood Hazard.
 - Max lighting standards.
 - Driveway and private road design standards
 - Resource protection, There are some resource protection standards in the Zoning currently. They are identified in sections 318, 325. Seems to me that there should be some standards in regard to erosion control, wetlands and riparian given the water resources in new haven.
- b. Amendments to "non-conformities".
- c. Allow ZA to administratively permit boundary adjustments and mergers.
- d. Expand accessory dwelling to 750 sq. ft. or 30% of living space.

Signage- Beverly reminded PC of their task from last meeting to review sign regulations for this meeting. Dan asked about the political sign discussion that has recently taken place. Dan expressed that this is a form of free speech and should be allowed.

Dave expressed that all signs need to comply with the Bylaws. The Bylaws specifically state the "signs identifying any non-residential building or use permitted in residential districts, not exceeding a total of twenty square feet". So if a political sign is determined to be a "use permitted in residential districts" then I guess it could be permitted/approved. At this point none of the signs were permitted and the 2 in question have been removed. Dave expressed that he might not be comfortable approving political signage and may have the DRB look at them instead.

Benj suggested this might be a 1st amendment issue. Prohibiting them all might be a problem. Bylaw could allow to some degree. PC will look closer at this. Dave will share his informal policy with PC next meeting.

John M. suggested that VLCT or Attorney General be contacted as this is a constitutional civil right.

Rob pointed out that setback differences due to the road rights-of-way width determine where a sign can be placed and how effect they are. Rob reflected that the 6 rod right-of-way along South Street means a sign would be on his porch.

North/South highway discussion- Beverly noted that her father had used the road early in the 1900's seasonally to move his milk to market. This highway had assumed to have been discontinued around 1920, until Mr. Fisher petitioned the Court to have it reopened. There is a survey on file and a new one is being completed now.

Review of sign bylaws, section 334-

Beverly expressed concern about the negativity of the language and suggested edits to the following sections. Based on discussion PC agreed to the following edits/changes or corrections.

- a. Need a definition for "building façade". This specific to section 334.G
- b. Need to be clear what an acceptable building eave overhang is.
- c. 334.B- change "sowing" to "showing".
- d. 334.C(9)- add "square feet" after the number 16.
- e. 334.E- Strike "~~Road setback requirements do not apply to signs but~~". Begin section with "Signs must not be placed ...".
- f. 334.F- Edit to read " Only 1 permanently installed ground mounted sign per road entrance to a site or per road the site fronts on, whichever is greater, is permitted. Only 2 permanently installed building-mounted signs per business located on a building are permitted".
- g. 334.G- Edit to read "The total area of building-mounted signs is restricted to an amount equal to 2 square feet multiplied by the width of the front of the building façade, not to exceed 300 square feet". 2nd sentence in section remains same.
- h. 334.H- edit to read "The total height and area of a ground mounted sign is limited to":
- i. 334.I- change "communication" to "communicate"
- j. 334.J- bullet numbering needs to be corrected.
 - a. Bullet # 2- replace "not exceed" with "be less than 20-feet.
 - b. Bullet #3- Edit 2nd sentence to read "Lighting shall be focused and only illuminate the extent of the sign area".
 - c. Bullet #6- Edit and replace "~~not more~~" with "up to".

PC discussed light pollution at length. Dave expressed concern about regulating residential exterior lighting and what some deem to be safety lighting.

Benj. expressed concern with moving signs where text is constantly changing.

4. **PC Clerk-** no action.
5. **PC member vacancy-** still down 1 member.

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES

1. 2/13/2017- Quorum not present for approval. Review and approve next meeting

IV. CORRESPONDENCE-

- Minor ACT 250 application "Bristol Fire Station"
- Kayhart 2-lot subdivision in Waltham notice

V. OTHER - NEXT MEETING- April 10, 2017- Dan Monger will not be in attendance.

VI. ADJOURNMENT- Dan moved to adjourn at 9:00, Beverly 2nds. Approved, 4 yes, 0 no.

Approved on: 5/8/2017



Rob Litch



Dan Monger



Beverly Landon



Benj Putnam