

PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Held on January 19, 2016

Minutes approved on 2/2/2016

The Litchfield Planning Board held a meeting in the Town Hall conference room 2 Liberty Way, Litchfield, NH 03052 on Tuesday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Young (Chair), Mike Caprioglio (Vice Chair), Russell Blanchette, Mike Croteau arrived at 7:10, Jason Guerrette, Matthew Shoemaker arrived at 7:10, Paul Charland, Alternate

ABSENT: Steve Perry (Selectmen's Rep)

ALSO PRESENT: Jen Czysz (Assistant Director NRPC, Circuit Rider), Mark Connors (NRPC Regional Planner), Joan McKibben (Admin. Assistant) , Kevin Lynch (Building Inspector/Code Enforcement)

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Young called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Young appointed Alternate member Paul Charland to be a voting member this evening.

PUBLIC INPUT

No members of the public wished to speak on non-agenda items.

1. PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING CHANGES - SIGN ORDINANCE

Russ B. reads the notice for the first proposed zoning change Amend the definitions section 200.00 for signs and section 1500.00 sign ordinance to comply with the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision clarifying the right to free speech and content based signs.

Russ and Tom explain the reason for the changes to the ordinance.

Public Input Claudette Durocher 158 Charles Bancroft Hwy.: Questions what exactly was the decision of the Supreme Court?

Jen replies Reed vs. Gilbert, AZ was the case. Reed challenged the Town's ordinance based on free speech. Reed charged the town was regulating signs based on content. The Supreme

Court took a very broad view of what content would be. You can't regulate a sign based on content. You can regulate the placement, the size, the construction of a sign within a district but that rule has to apply to all signs within a district. All 50 states have to comply with this decision.

The town can't have a regulation based on the content of your sign

Jason G. continues to give examples and explain to Ms. Durocher. He also states real estate signs, agricultural signs, etc. must all meet the same standard in the zone they are allowed in.

Temporary signs will be allowed for 30 days in a calendar year.

After more discussion and explanation Chairman Young closes the public hearing.

Jason G. makes a MOTION to send the sign definition and the sign ordinance to the ballot in March. Russ B. seconds the motion. The motion passes 6-0-0. Matthew S. is not voting Paul C. is still a voting member.

PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUED - TABLE FOR DIMENSIONAL STANDARDS

Mike Caprioglio reads the notice for the proposed change: Reorganize all dimensional standards for zoning districts, creating a single table of dimensional standards. Proposed changes include setback reductions for sheds and Albuquerque Avenue and set minimum frontage and lot size standards for all uses in the residential district.

Kevin Lynch opposes all lots in the residential zone conforming to a specific size and frontage.

Mike C. explains there will be one table showing all the frontage, setbacks and area for lots in each zone.

There will be a minimum standard for lots in all zones.

Kevin Lynch supports the reduced setback for sheds of 192 sq. ft. or smaller to 10' instead of the existing 20' from the side lot line and the 50' foot building setback on Albuquerque Ave. instead of the existing 75' setback on Albuquerque.

There was a discussion on the reasoning for the original 75' building setback on Albuquerque.

Ms Durocher had a few questions that the Board attempted to answer regarding the setback and the table. The table is an extract of the zoning not changing any dimensions except what is previously stated.

Jason G. makes a MOTION to send the table of dimensional standards to the ballot for the March election. Russ B. seconds the motion. The motion passed 6-0-0

OTHER BUSINESS - PINECREEK/ASHWOOD LETTER

Tom Young recuses himself from the Board for this discussion.

Vice-Chair Mike Caprioglio chairs the meeting and reads Ashwood 1/18/16 letter into the record.

Joan mentioned that the Board sent Ashwood and their bonding company a certified letter after the Jan.5, 2016 meeting stating the dates the Board expects the road work to be done, which was a May 15 roadwork completion date and a June 1 revoking of the bond date if work was not completed.

In Ashwood's current letter they feel June 30 would be a more realistic date for completion of work.

The Board will send another letter as a result of this meeting stating the damage to the burms needs to addressed, landscaping corrected, and a June 1 completion date for all tasks with an April 15 date for confirmation of work. The Board felt that three months to schedule the work is plenty of time.

Joan will also update the Pine Creek Condo. Association.

Mr. Lynch leaves at 8:15 p.m.

MULTI-FAMILY DESIGN GUIDELINES

The Board was give the design guidelines at a prior meeting.

Jen explains there is a section that applies to non-residential and sections that apply to multi-family.

The Board felt they have had ample time to review the changes and would like to send this to a hearing.

Jason G. makes a MOTION to send multi-family design guidelines to a hearing on 3/15/2016. Russ B seconds the motion. The motion passes 6-0-0.

Mike Caprioglio makes a MOTION to approve the 1/5/2016 minutes as written. Russ B. seconds the motion. The motion passes 4-0-2.

Chairman Young made his bi-monthly TV plea for more alternate members.

A MOTION to adjourn was made at 8:32 p.m. by Jason G. and seconded by Mike C. All in favor.

Minutes transcribed by
J. McKibben