

**TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, NH
PLANNING BOARD**

Monday, December 2, 2013

Present: Brad Chesley, James Corliss, Jon McKeon, Joe Parisi, Mike Lynch, John Koopmann and Rolland Vollebehr

Call to Order

Brad Chesley called the meeting to order at 7:04

Seat Alternates

Joe Parisi seated for Sue Lawson-Kelleher

Mike Lynch seated for Davis Peach

Review of the Minutes

November 18, 2013

Corliss motioned to accept the minutes from November 18, 2013. The motion was seconded by Koopmann and passed unanimously.

Appointments

Conceptual consultation – no minutes taken as conceptual consultations are non-binding on either party

Items for Discussion

Sign Ordinances

McKeon noted that he brought this up because code enforcement has noted there is some ambiguity in the ordinances pertaining to signage. McKeon noted that some clarification is needed.

McKeon noted that page 59 of the Zoning Regulations define signs and the regulations for signs begin on page 31 and include regulations 401 through 401.7. The board read through the definition and the current regulations.

Bob Brockman (public) noted that he believes there is a need for changes in order to make the regulations understandable and more easily enforced. Brockman noted that some of the businesses in town are getting away with having signs that are non-compliant and are doing so under the premise that the sign is a temporary sign.

Parisi noted that he does not see an issue with the regulations as they are stated. He noted that the regulations seem clear. Koopmann noted that he agrees with Parisi and does not see any issues with the current regulations. Koopmann noted that some of the signs that are not in compliance may have been in business prior to the regulations taking affect. Corliss noted that the regulations may need some adjustment. Corliss noted that there may be another category (other than 120 days) for temporary signage, it may help with enforcement of the regulations and be helpful for event signs.

The board discussed trailers with signs painted or hung on them. Parisi noted that the trailer could be considered a “device” under the definition of sign and therefore regulated by the Zoning Ordinances.

Bob Del Sesto (public) noted that the board had the same discussion 12-13 years ago and they received advice from an attorney stating that the State of New Hampshire is the only regulatory body pertaining to motor vehicles. Del Sesto noted that no town has the right to come up with separate regulations.

McKeon agreed with Del Sesto’s interpretation of the State of New Hampshire’s view on registered vehicles. It was noted that if a registered motor vehicle was covered under the regulations than FedEx would be in violation of the ordinances each time they have more than one truck in their parking lot.

Chesley noted that he is concerned about the signs that have the blower and move all around. McKeon noted that would be the mechanical part. It was noted that an ordinance exists that states there shall be no moving parts; however it is locate under 401.4 Illumination, which may not cover the non-illumination signs. McKeon asked if the current ordinance covers scrolling messages, backlighting and front lighting. Corliss noted that anything that gives the sign the appearance of movement is currently prohibited by the regulations.

Vollbehr noted that 401.7 – Temporary off premise – E. limits the signage for 120 days. Vollbehr noted that farms run for 365 days and are no longer only open for the summer months. McKeon noted that the regulation was recently changed from 90 to 120. It was suggested that maybe agricultural signs have regulations of their own.

Dutch Walsh (public) noted that in this day and age, people are driving around using hand held devices to guide them and it is dangerous. The Town should consider looking into changing the regulations for seasonal activities, to allow signs and keep peoples attention on the road where it belongs. Del Sesto noted that consistent enforcement of the regulations is very important and if the regulations are ignored, then it will do no good to make new regulations.

Parisi suggested that a smaller group of people might have better luck coming up with suggestions on how to change the wording. There were a few people in the public that were interested in assiting in suggesting some wording changes. The board is looking for recommendations from the public prior to the next meeting. Parisi noted that he is available to assist in the alterations. McKeon will also be available. Anyone that has any suggestions on wording can contact Lachenal who will collect and forward the information to the board for the next meeting. Corliss noted that he would like the event signage to be addressed and does not believe it should be by permit only. McKeon noted that the permit is used for control, if there is a time limit for the sign to be up, how will you be able to enforce that without having a permit?

Master Plan

Chesley noted that he has been working on getting information together for the Master Plan. McKeon suggested that Chesley get a group together to figure out the extent of what needs to be done and arrive at a budget. Dutch Walsh (public) noted that he has spoken with Southwest regional planning recently regarding mapping and believes this will be an important issue to discuss in the Master Plan discussions. Walsh noted that they are willing to come and meet with the Economic Development Committee, the Planning Board and/or the Selectboard.

Walsh noted that the Economic Development committee plans to meet in January regarding the upcoming Master Plan update and will be making any suggestions as to what they would like to include.

Items for Information Other Business

Items for Signature

Adjournment

McKeon moves to adjourn at 8:43 PM. Vollbehr seconds the motion which passes unanimously.

The next meeting will be held in the Town Offices at 7:30PM December 16, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Patricia Lachenal

Planning Board Secretary

Approved by:

Brad Chesley, Chairman

Date