

Approved 3-7-23

Town of Lenox

Planning Board

Meeting Minutes

1/24/23

In person, Planning Board: Tom Delasco, Kate McNulty-Vaughan;

Sign Bylaw Team: Mark Smith, Ariel Smith

Remote, Planning Board: Pam Kueber;

Remote, Sign Bylaw Team: Jim Biancolo

Absent w. Notification: Susan Lyman, Planning Board Member

Absent w/o Notification: Jim Harwood, Planning Board Member

Staff, in-person : Gwen Miller

Public: Ellen Jacobson, Scott Barrow, Robert ?

Documents At Meeting:

Meeting minutes: 7/26, 8/9, 9/13, 10/25, 11/15, 11/21, 11/22, 11/29, 12/5, 1/10

Sign bylaw documents:

Definitions

Suggested special events sign language

Temporary signs

Approval of Minutes

PK and members commented on required items missing or needing clarification in Minutes, including start time, separating Board and staff names from public attendees, documents available, correspondence rec'd, etc., to be considered overall edits to Minutes below:

July 26, 2022

KMV moved to accept with PK edits; TD 2nd.

KMV, TD, & PK approved (3-0).

Aug. 9, 2022

KMV moved to accept with edits; TD 2nd.

KMV, TD, & PK approved (3-0).

Sept. 13, 2022

KMV moved to approve with edits; PK 2nd.

KMV, TD, & PK approved (3-0).

Oct. 25, 2022

PK moved to approve with edits; TD 2nd.

PK, TD, KMV approved (3-0).

Nov. 15, 2022

PK moved to approve with edits as noted in mtg remarks; TD 2nd.

PK, TD, KMV approved (3-0).

Nov. 21, 2022

PK moved to accept with edits; TD 2nd.

PK and TD approve; KMV abstains (absent from mtg.)

Nov. 22, 2022

PK moved to approve with edits; TD 2nd.

PK, TD, KMV approved (3-0).

Nov. 29, 2022: Public Hearing

PK moves to approve with edits; TD 2nd.

Discussion & decision to Table Minutes until SL and JH can review and comment (3-0).

Dec. 5, 2022

PK moved to approve with edits; TD 2nd.

PK, TD, KMV approved (3-0).

Jan. 10, 2023

PK moves to approve with edits; Td 2nd.

PK and TD rescind motion and move to Table Minutes.

Move to Table Approved: PK, TD, KMV (3-0).

Sign Bylaw Discussion

The Planning Board went over the work done to date with the Sign Bylaw group. They had been going through the proposed zoning bylaw language, and today were going over definitions as provided by the Sign Bylaw group.

Review of Definitions

They went over the definition of billboard, banner, and discussed how many banners a business could have. There was discussion about the difference between a banner and a flag.

They requested the definitions be listed alphabetically going forward.

The group also talked about the size of signs, where and how directional signs are allowed, and what constitutes a commercial message or slogan on a sign.

There was lengthy discussion about signs in the right-of-way—what signs are allowed now, what signs would be allowed in the new zoning bylaw language, and what the Town can regulate on signs on private property. This included renewed question as to what is the right-of-way, and to what extent private property owners/v can place signs in the Town right-of-way. GM noted they had correspondence from Town Counsel about this topic to share with the Sign Bylaw Group.

The group discussed next steps—the Planning Board and Sign Bylaw Group hopes to have an additional meeting to finish reviewing the proposed language, and then seek feedback from the Historic District, Inspections Department and business community. They hope to have an informational meeting and public hearing for a Town Meeting article. TD explained he had spoken to Jason Berger, Chairperson of the Historic District Commission, who had relayed the updated policy HDC had on signs. This had eliminated issues with the Zoning Bylaw, and made it easier for businesses to replace signs in the district. His concern was that the new bylaw language would allow for the same number of signs allowed on Route 7 to be allowed per business in the village.

The group went over the schedule for upcoming meetings and agreed to revisit the revised sign bylaw language in March.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 36 p.m.

Submitted by Gwen Miller

2/9/23