**Approved 1/24 w/ edits**

**Town of Lenox**

**Planning Board**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 9, 2022**

**Hybrid meeting**

**In attendance**: Tom Delasco, Pam Kueber, Sue Lyman, Kate McNulty-Vaughn, Ariel Smith, Jim Biancolo, Scott Barrow, Gwen Miller

Documents Available:

* Proposed sign bylaw document
1. **Approval of Minutes—**draft minutes shared earlier in the day (June) were tabled for the next meeting, as the group had not enough time to review.
2. **Review and discussion of proposed sign bylaw amendments**—the group continued their review of the proposed sign bylaw drafted by Ariel Smith, Mark Smith and Jim Biancolo. The group picked up where they left off at the July 26th meeting—the topic of temporary signs. Ariel and Jim proposed revising language to address concerns from the Planning Board at the previous meeting. The result would mean that temporary signs are allowed in every district, they can be on/off property, and on public property so long as the approvals necessary are procured. The content of the sign will not matter. It will just be a temporary sign.

Pam had a question about special event signs. She proposed that special event signs only be allowed on building. Her sense was that in the past, the only temporary event signs were usually about sporadic events. She felt that most businesses kept their temporary event signs in the window of their business. Ariel Smith said that businesses in the Commercial zones, businesses were already placing special event signs in the right-of-way. She noted the Mobil station on Pittsfield Road as one example. Pam just thought there were too many signs on Route 7, it was not good for wayfinding—there was too much to read on the road.

Ariel noted the proposed language allows for one free standing temporary sign per event. Ariel reiterated this would only apply to commercial and industrial businesses. The content of the signs is up to the Planning Board—if they want the event signs to be limited to events happening on site, or if it can be more permissive.

The conversation around temporary signs kept going, encompassing several different types of temporary signs—such as pole signs.

The Planning Board and sign group discussed other proposed revisions to the sign bylaw. The group agreed to revisit agricultural use signs, and to go through definitions at a subsequent meeting. The Planning Board planned to have the sign group back on the second September meeting.

Scott Barrow asked if the group wanted preliminary feedback on the proposed sign bylaw revisions. Tom said they would like to get further along before getting feedback from businesses—feedback from Inspections Department, other boards and committees, and then go to the businesses and hold a Public Hearing. Scott said he is part of various groups that have thoughts on signs—that perhaps the merchant group would be a good addition.

1. **Wireless bylaw work update—**Tom said he had no update on wireless. Pam suggested they look at the Scarsdale, NY zoning bylaw on wireless since they had received the correspondence from Scott Barrow suggesting they contract with a specific wireless attorney. Sue Lyman and Kate McNulty-Vaughn agreed it made sense to look at other community’s bylaws, particularly those recommended by David Maxson. Pam said she felt like there was a large contingent in town of people who want better cell service—and the Planning Board wasn’t hearing from them.
2. **Solar bylaw work update—**Tom said he thought Cara Farell would be available in September. Pam said she had updated the minutes—she had transcribed the entire meeting where they last discussed solar—to be clearer and capture research she had done on recent land court cases. She believed the Wilbraham case demonstrates the Town needs to expand the geographic area where solar is allowed in Lenox.

The Planning Board meeting adjourned around 8:30 p.m.

Prepared by Gwen Miller

January 2023