

Wilmington Planning Commission Meeting

Monday January 13, 2020

4 p.m.

Open Meeting

Cheryl opened the meeting at 4:02 PM

In attendance: Cheryl LaFlamme, chair, Tom Consolino, Meg Staloff, Angela Yakovleff

Mike Tuller, Zoning Administrator

Scott Tucker, Town Manager

Possible Additions to the Agenda

none

Public Comment

none

Approve Minutes from January 13, 2020

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting.

Meg seconded.

In Favor: Cheryl, Tom, Meg, Angela

Opposed: none

Abstain: none

Discussion on windows going forward within the Village and Historic Design Review District Overlays-Applicable Code Section 530

Our Ordinance states that windows may not be boarded up without the consent of DRB. This ordinance has not been enforced in the past.

Cheryl asked if we should look at the Zoning Ordinance to determine if we need to change it in any way. There are many building in the district that are now being boarded over without approval.

- What constitutes 70% of window space being covered? Are windowed doors included? Do we need new language? Would it be wise to consult someone in terms of legalities of enforcing the ordinance?
- What is the difference between stickers and signs?
- It is the Planning Commission's job to recommend any change.
- Could Mike come up with wording for us to consider?
- The way the ordinance is written seems unenforceable. We could put the town in a precarious position.

Mike told us that in the future signs must be content neutral. Maybe we need to look at revisions to the sign ordinance.

Cheryl thinks we should look at the sign ordinance. We have made changes to the ordinance to make it more user-friendly. We should look at more than the Historic District. The ordinance covers the entire Town, not just the Historic District.

Mike wonders if we should involve the business community as we write it Even though it goes to public hearing, it might be wise to poll businesses to see what feeling on this are.

Cheryl noted most of the ordinance is enforced.

Tom's concern is around public safety.

Mike wants to be consistent in enforcement.

Tom asked Mike if he's been here long enough to ask other towns for copies of their sign ordinance. He has put questions up on the list-serve.

Cheryl requested Mike do some research and get results out to the Board before our next meeting so we can review and further discuss our options of revision.

Tom would like to look at window ordinances from other towns, especially surrounding towns so we have an idea of what is being done in these towns.

This could be a "sticky" issue. It would be wise to look at other ordinances and determine how we want to address this issue.

Old Business

none

Next Meeting – February 10, 2020

Adjournment

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 5:20 PM.

Meg seconded.

In Favor: Cheryl, Tom, Meg, Angela

Opposed: none

Abstain: none

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Yakovleff, Scribe