

Wilmington Planning Commission Meeting
Monday February 10, 2020
400 p.m.

Open Meeting

Cheryl opened the meeting at 4:03 PM

In attendance: Cheryl LaFlamme, chair, John Lebron (by phone), Meg Staloff, Angela Yakovleff (at 4:16)

Scott Tucker, Town Manager

Mike Tuller, Zoning Administrator

Possible Additions to the Agenda

none

Public Comment

none

Approve Minutes from January 27, 2020

The approval of minutes was tabled due to lack of a quorum.

Discussion on Sign Ordinance

The board reviewed documents from Dover and other towns that have a high tourist population.

The question is how to deal with so many businesses in violation of our present sign ordinance. Do we want to survey businesses to determine voluntary compliance?

John thinks we should keep the ordinance on the books and let Mike try to enforce it. Ensure more visibility and make sure the windows don't look like billboards.

Cheryl wonders why we have this on the books at all? It is onerous and not business friendly in its present form. She asked Meg if she might approach a few businesses to ask if they know they are not in compliance with the ordinance. Cheryl thinks we need to communicate with downtown business owners and seek voluntary compliance.

Scott said perhaps the time has come and gone for the opportunity to change people.

Angela thinks if the ordinance is kept on the books it should be enforced just as other ordinances are.

John said we should either ask for enforcement or change the ordinance.

Meg said a sign ordinance should not be subjective.

Scott suggested as a business friendly gesture we should update the ordinance to reflect more of what we expect.

John said if we decide we don't want to enforce it, we should remove it.

Cheryl said we should move section 8.23 to the "Exempt signs" section.

She would like to see what Tom thinks before we put forward a motion as to the direction we want to take. She thinks we should pull 8.22L and look more thoroughly at the present ordinance.

8.32 deals with permitted signs needing a zoning permit.

Points made include

- There is no requirement that the entry door has glass.
- Lighting is on after hours
- The front door must have lights.

Cheryl made a motion to go into executive session at 5:01 PM to discuss the evaluation of a public official under Title 1 Vermont Statutes Annotated, section 313(a)(3). Meg seconded.

In favor: John, Meg, Angela, Cheryl

Opposed: none

Abstain: none

Meg made a motion to return from executive session at 5:12. John seconded.

In favor: Cheryl, John, Meg, Angela

Opposed: none

Abstain: none

No action taken.

Next Meeting – February 24, 2020

Adjournment

Meg made a motion to adjourn at 5:15 PM.

Cheryl seconded.

In Favor: Cheryl, John, Meg, Angela

Opposed: none

Abstain: none

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Yakovleff, Scribe