

Stockbridge Planning Commission Minutes

August 21, 2018

DRAFT

Commissioners present: Jon Benson, Suzanne Butterfield, Louis Chap, Bill Edgerton, Joanne Mills, Todd Trzaskos, David Walls.

Members of the public present: Chad Merris, Alice Walls

Others present: Lee Ann Isaacson, Zoning Administrator and Selectboard member, Tory Littlefield, TRORC.

Meeting called to order: 7:04 p.m.

Review of Agenda: No Changes.

Review of August 21 , 2018 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved.

Citizen Speak: Chad Merris pointed out several items in the proposed Bylaws Draft which he is concerned are too restrictive. Highlights are as follows:

2.4 Exempt Development: There was concern that item (f) restricting temporary events to not exceed four consecutive days or ten calendar days per year would interfere with existing annual events. It was pointed out that this identifies instances in which a town permit is *not needed* (i.e. exempt from permit). Any planned event exceeding these limits triggers the need for a ptown permit. The events Chad expressed concern over already have a permit from the town, and thus the bylaw does not apply.

4.10 Signage: There was concern that item (e) - "Large. Portable or additional signs placed in or on movable vehicle or prohibited." was restricting the ability to have business advertising printed on registered personal vehicles. While this item was not an update, but simply carried forward from the prior bylaws, the Commission agreed to review the item to determine if it remains applicable and, if so, clarify the intent.

4.18 Outdoor Displays: There was concern that outdoor displays of goods for sale being limited to displays immediately in front of the establishment was too broadly restrictive. It was pointed out the intent was to have the bylaw apply specifically to retail establishments. The Commission agreed to review and adjust the wording.

4.17 Exterior Lighting: There was concern expressed that the bright lighting at the Park and Ride lot at the Rt. 100 and Rt. 107 junction provides an area for illegal activity at night. This lot is under the jurisdiction of the state, but the concern and observation has been taken under advisement by the Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator and Selectboard member.

The Commission thanked Chad for taking the time to proactively present concerns on the Bylaws Draft ahead of the Town Forum.

Old Business:

The Commission discussed the format and procedural aspects of the Town Forum to be held on September 18th. Highlights of the key decisions are as follows:

1. Copies of the Draft Zoning Bylaws will be made available to all in attendance. Bill Edgerton will obtain copies from Spaulding Press or Staples.
2. Member of the public will be given forms to write down initial questions or concerns ahead of time. It was believed this would enable a more focussed discussion as well as accommodate those uncomfortable speaking at a public gathering.
3. Lee Ann Isaacson graciously agreed to present a brief welcome and Chair Edgerton will provide background. These presentations are targeted at 5 minutes each.
4. Light refreshments are planned. Bill Edgerton will bring iced tea and encouraged others on the Commission to bring cookies or other snacks.
5. The Commission will meet at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, September 19th at Town Hall to discuss and make modifications to the draft bylaws based upon feedback from the Town Forum, in preparation for passing the document to the Selectboard for review and approval.

New Business:

Tory Littlefield, representing TRORC, was present to discuss support for the upcoming revision of the Town Plan. She indicated there is \$9000 of grant money potentially available to provide for TRORC attendance and guidance at each Planning Commission meeting dedicated to development of the Town Plan update. The grant application is due the last week of September. Tory also pointed out the the new requirement that Town Plans incorporate sections on “Flood Resilience” and “Forest Blocks and Habitat Corridor Protection”

The Commission voted and unanimously agreed to apply for the grant.

Commissioner Mills announced the successful “Trunk or Treat” will take place again this year on the Town Green, perhaps including a Haunted House. In addition, the Meeting House Committee is planning another “Pie for Breakfast” event to raise money for pew cushions.

Next Scheduled Meeting: September 19th, 2018

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

Faithfully Submitted,
David Walls, Scribe