



CITY OF DOVER

SIGN COMMITTEE – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: McConnell Center, Room 305, Dover NH
Meeting Date: Thursday, March 6, 2014
Meeting Time: 8:30 am

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Green (Chair), Tom Clark, Lee Skinner, Michelle Gilmore, Erik Roy, Dan Barufaldi

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird (City Planner), Tim Corwin (Assistant City Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis Ciotti, Karen Weston, Mike Leary

The meeting was convened by Green at 8:35 AM.

1. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Green welcomed everyone to the meeting and members introduced themselves.

2. PRESENTATION BY GREEN ON SIGN ORDINANCE

Green presented a PowerPoint covering sign regulations, gateways into Dover, temporary signs and examples of signs we may not want to permit.

3. DISCUSSION WITH TIM CORWIN, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Corwin: I am here as a resource to the committee. I have a list of sign ordinance issues for the committee to consider. Enforcement of the ordinance has recently focused on temporary A-frame signs. Banners are still a big issue. The mill motif criteria are tough to enforce and needs to be updated. For permanent signs mill motif is optional. In the recently adopted Gateway CBD, a size limitation and the 9:00 PM curfew for lighting was not included. In the CBD consider creating a special events temporary sign permit.

Leary: As the owner of Sundance Signs, I agree that the mill motif is tough to administer. The fonts allowed are outdated. Banners are tough to regulate. I have some resources for uniform codes that the committee might find helpful.

4. DISCUSSION ON GOALS OF COMMITTEE

Green reviewed the goals as being 1) review sign ordinance; 2) public input; 3) input from sign companies

Ciotti: You should look at regulating vehicle or trailer signs.

Skinner: We should identify language that is subjective in the ordinance.

5. REVIEW OF EXISTING SIGN ORDINANCE

Bird distributed copies of the chapter 170-32, including the definitions related to signs and all of the district tables.



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6. OPEN DISCUSSION ON SIGN ISSUES

Sawyer: How will we approach the review at each meeting? I would like to be able to prepare ahead of time.

Green: I agree that we need to know what we will be reviewing. I would like to shoot for May as our completion date.

7. DISCUSSION ON NEXT MEETING DATE

Green: I would like to meet next week on March 13th and then every two weeks after that. It was decided to meet at 8:00 am.

Green: Does anyone else have any input at this time?

Weston: You should review electronic signs. It would be easier to change the message from inside the office. Cecil Group is looking at way finding signs in the downtown as part of their study.

Green: We need to also look at how we are going to accomplish the changes that we want to do.

Weston: The Transportation Advisory Committee looked at the excess amount of municipal signage in some places. One idea is a message board run by the City at a major intersection. We do not want flashing signs.

Leary: Portsmouth has a municipal sign board at the Vaughn Mall. Somersworth has a sign ordinance that does a good job at addressing electronic signs that was amended after some of their less attractive signs were installed.

Skinner: There is a big difference between a sign message that changes once a day and one that changes every 10 seconds.

Green: Lets all commit to review Chapter 170-32 for the next meeting.

Barufaldi: We should all familiarize ourselves with the ordinance.

Barufaldi motioned to adjourn at 9:43 AM. Roy seconded. Vote: Unanimous