



CITY OF DOVER

SIGN COMMITTEE – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall, Dover NH
Meeting Date: Thursday, April 10, 2014
Meeting Time: 8:00 am

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

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Bird (City Planner)

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Leary, Carrie Eisner

The meeting was convened by Green at 8:00 AM.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Skinner motioned to approve the minutes of March 27, 2014, Clark seconded. Vote: Unanimous

2. OLD BUSINESS

Green: Michele Gilmore has resigned. Planning Board Chair Dennis Ciotti will appoint a replacement on 4/22/14.

a. Review of Sign Ordinance - Chapter 170-32

i. Mill Motif discussion – Lee Skinner

Skinner distributed a handout with his recommended changes. Illustrations need to be updated or removed. How many businesses have used mill motif?

Green: I have asked Tim Corwin to consider extending design standards to gateway districts. We can have him attend a future meeting to discuss.

Skinner: We should have a clear understanding of what we want from him.

Roy: What would Corwin be providing us? Are we ready for him?

Barufaldi: I would like to get his input before our page by page review.

Green: His input would be useful on mill motif.

Skinner: If we can come up with a fix for mill motif - good, if not then scrap it.

Green: We need to hear from Corwin before we make a decision on that. We will ask him to attend on the April 24th meeting.

ii. Political/Election Signs

Clark: election signs have been a problem. Political signs are different.

Bird: State law uses the term political advertising. We should be consistent. We changed our ordinance a few years ago to match the state. We would not regulate signs subject to the First Amendment.

Green: I would like to see what the City Attorney says about differentiating between political signs and election signs. On other issues the City is stricter than the state.

Clark: Perhaps the Chair should pursue this with an e-mail to the City Attorney.

Green: I am asking Bird to follow-up with the City Attorney.

iii. Consideration of additional definitions

Green: We have discussed various terms but most are defined. New ones may be identified as we review the ordinance.



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b. Begin Page by Page Review

It was agreed to review the document page by page.

Clark: We can skip definitions for now because we will be covering the terms in the ordinance.

On page 131 Skinner suggested a change to 170-32 – purpose statement that was agreed upon.

Green suggested the need for a definition of “directional sign”.

Bird pointed out that Portsmouth had a definition that might work.

Barufaldi proposed deleting “adequate” and “reasonable” from purpose statement.

On page 132 it was agreed to delete the second paragraph related to site plans.

On page 133 a discussion was had on the term nit.

Clark agreed to bring this to the Electrical Inspector for his opinion.

Roy asked Leary to explain his understanding of nit.

Leary: Sign lighting is measured in a controlled atmosphere. Each bulb has a nit rating. The problem is there is no equipment to measure nits.

3. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

4. CITIZEN FORUM

Leary: Section C(14) in 170-32 uses the term directional sign.

Eisner: For the mill motif, a checklist would be very helpful for businesses.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Bird: We are receiving e-mails from citizens regarding the sign ordinance. Does the committee want to see them?

Green: I can forward them to committee members after reviewing them.

6. MEMBER COMMENTS

Skinner: We can't measure nits so why have the standard for sign companies and the city?

Barufaldi: We should find out how other communities are measuring sign illumination.

7. NEXT MEETING

a. Set Topics of Discussion

Green: We will cover zoning administrator issues and keep going page by page. For the special meeting next week we should give each company 15 or 20 minutes and allow time for questions.

b. Meeting time and place

Next meeting will be April 17th at 8:30 am for the sign companies to present information

Next regular meeting will be April 24th at 8:00 am. Bird will confirm that staff can cover his absence.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Clark motioned to adjourn at 9:28 AM. Barufaldi seconded. Vote: Unanimous