

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NEW HAMPSHIRE
PLANNING BOARD
January 20, 2016
MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

Board members present: Tedd Petro, Camilla Lockwood, George Willard, Bruce Kullgren, Ted Sartell, and Allan Pickman

Call to order by Pickman at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of minutes: Motion by Petro to approve the minutes of 01/06/16 as written, second by Kullgren, and so voted.

Lot line adjustment: Judy Royster presented preliminary paperwork for a proposed lot line adjustment between Map 9 Lot 1, owned by Royster, and Map 9 Lot 4, owned by Jeta Grove Foundation (Forest Monastery). A recent survey plat prepared by Monadnock Survey was reviewed. Royster described plans for her property, including current buildings and status of existing well and septic. Board members considered lot sizes, road frontage, setbacks, zoning districts, and future building possibilities. A hearing date of Wednesday, February 3, 2016 was set, and abutter notices will be mailed out. Royster indicated she would make sure the Mylars and paper copies of the plat will available at that time.

Pipeline: General discussion regarding recent issues, including filings for intervenor status as well as related bills pending in the NH legislature.

Public Hearing - Noise Ordinance: At 7:30 p.m. Pickman opened the second public hearing for a proposed zoning amendment which would regulate noise for commercial and industrial facilities. Copies of the "Section 31: Commercial and Industrial Noise" document were made available to audience members. It was noted Temple's ordinance is in alignment with one developed by the town of New Ipswich, with the exception of an additional section regarding noise limits that New Ipswich included in theirs. Sartell was offered thanks for all his work on this, and appreciation was extended to resident Bill Letendre as well for his contributions. A question was asked about violations and enforcement of noise compliance issues. Another thanked the board for all their hard work on this issue. Pickman indicated the ordinance was meant to help preserve the rural character of the town, and would be presented as a ballot vote in March. *Petro made a motion to accept the document as written, to be put on the ballot, seconded by Kullgren, and so voted unanimously.*

Public Hearing - Sign Ordinance: At 7:39 p.m. Pickman opened the public hearing for a proposed zoning amendment to the Sign Ordinance. Copies of revised language for paragraph (e) under "Section 17: Signs" were made available to audience members. A spirited dialogue ensued between audience members and the board regarding the existence of two lighted "OPEN" signs in businesses in the village. There was an accusation by Connie Kieley of failure by the Planning Board to deal with the "neon" sign issue. Board members countered there has been a lack of enforcement by the Board of Selectmen. Regarding an update of the entire sign ordinance, board members indicated there has been no clear consensus and they are not prepared to deal with all aspects right now. Their approach would be to do research and perform a thorough review, to include holding public forums to gather input from residents. Honey Hastings spoke about the "illegal" neon signs, and how a current lack of zoning for businesses could allow signs to be put up anywhere, i.e. near residences. She suggested using more strict language to define signs in paragraph (e), and provided sample wording. Gail Cromwell then asked the board to consider reducing the allowable size of the signs from 2 square feet down to 1 square foot. She held up two rudimentary cardboard signs to illustrate the difference.

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Lockwood made a motion to have the language suggested by Hastings be utilized, second by Petro, and voted all in favor with Willard abstaining. Sartell clarified the board has yet no clear consensus on working on the sign issue, they would need input from the community, and the neon sign work starts this discussion. Kieley asked if the board would designate approval or recommendation of this on the ballot, and were told not on an article the board puts forth. Kieley then stated she feels there are safety issues with signs in town that are being ignored, and Pickman responded that this would be an enforcement issue involving the Selectmen. Lockwood stated the board has been overwhelmed all year with pipeline issues, plus work on a related noise ordinance, and dealing with signs is a very broad topic with many opinions. This led to dialogue about whether the town has jurisdiction over signage on state roads, which may need more research. Hastings asked the board to consider Cromwell's proposed reduction of 'neon' sign size. She also pointed out a simple language inconsistency within the wording of the proposed ordinance. *Petro made a motion to revert the sign size back to one square foot, second by Pickman, and so voted unanimously. Sartell made a motion to strike the letter "n" in the word "nor", second by Kullgren, and so voted unanimously. Petro made a motion to put in the proposed amendment as amended, second by Pickman, and so voted unanimously.* The hearing ended at 8:09 p.m.

Alternates: Lockwood asked Gail Cromwell, George Willard, and Ken Caisse (as members of the Board of Selectmen) how they feel about the Planning Board having alternates. Pickman indicated that not having quorums at meetings was infrequent and had not been an issue in past several years. There was also brief discussion about the procedure needed to allow the board to establish alternates. Lockwood promoted the possibility of utilizing alternates, saying it would be a good training ground for people who might have interest, and could possibly turn into future board membership. Willard stated he would question having an alternate come in who might not be up to speed on an issue. Cromwell felt if the system is not broken, it doesn't need to be fixed. Caisse asked if there was a process to just appoint non-voting interested members and urged the board to look into that.

Move to adjourn by Petro, second by Kullgren, and so voted at 8:18 p.m.
Minutes submitted by Betsy Perry

~ Next regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. ~