



Planning Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 7th, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Bristol Town Office

Committee Members present: Andrea Cox, Jeff Eilenberg, Robert Cushing, Patricia Jennings, Benjamin Pendleton, Jason Lord (Alternate) and Andrew Poland (Alternate)

Also present: Joseph Rose and Jessica Westhaver

Public: Don Means, Mary Rae Means, Charles Farrell, Sally Woolf-Wade, Slade Moore, Maia Zewert (LCN)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Andrea Cox, Chairperson.

Minutes from the November 16th meeting were approved. A motion was made by Cushing to approve the minutes, Cox Seconded; all in favor.

Old Business –

- Sign Ordinance Suggestions for presentation to the Selectmen (continued from previous meeting)
 - The board welcomed and thanked all public attendees for being present.
 - Review to the public on reason for the intent on a Sign Ordinance:
 - The selectmen requested for Planning Board input in regards to the non-binding question on Digital/Illuminated signs in the Town of Bristol through the August 2017 Special Town Meeting. An overwhelming majority voted against Digital/Illuminated signs.
 - The board's first step in the matter was to review Towns similar to Bristol who currently had an adopted Sign Ordinance or an Ordinance that referenced sign limitations.
 - The second step was the discussion of developing a survey to present to the public for a better understanding of the objection to the term digital/illuminated signs.
 - Cox invited input from all public present: Questions and comments presented were:
 - What does the current Land Use Ordinance say in regards to signs? Cox replied that the current LUO ordinance does not address signs at all. The Shoreland Zoning Ordinance does currently address signs on all zones except Public Recreation and Village (which will be amended for a Town Meeting vote in 2018).
 - Does the new sign installed at Ellingwood Information Center meet current requirements? Cox and Rose stated that is currently in compliance.
 - Bristol is a "residential" town and not a "commercial" town. Digital signs such as the one referenced looks too commercial for Bristol. Cox stated we would need to be careful in defining areas as commercial vs. non-commercial due to the lack of zoning in Bristol.
 - Some residents can see the sign from within their homes at night. Is there a time limit for when the sign could be illuminated? Can the brightness of the light be diminished?

- The sign at Ellingwood Information Center looks as though it is flashing with how fast it changes. The speed at which it changes could also cause an accident with the driver's inability to read the sign.
 - Digital signs are an annoyance just as political signs are
 - Residents don't want Bristol looking commercialized like Wiscasset or other larger towns.
 - With the smart phone, in most everybody's pocket, signs will eventually become a thing of the past. Between social media & GPS all the info people need find a location is in their hand. The Town would be better served with Facebook & Twitter accounts than a flashing green sign. As far as finding colonial Pemaquid, it'll be on map apps. We haven't come far enough for smaller businesses to not need signs however, in general signs aren't that nice and nobody leaves a town talking about how beautiful their signs were. So I would lean towards - the fewer the better, the smaller the better.
- Cox started the conversation surrounding the different types of illuminated of signs.
 - Externally Illuminated Signs (where lights shine onto a sign) local examples:
 - Reilley's
 - Bristol Mills Congregational Church
 - Internally Illuminated Signs (where sign is lighted from within) local examples:
 - Hammond Lumber
 - Bristol Consolidated School
 - Neon Signs (glass illuminated from within) local examples:
 - Dee's Variety
 - Deb's Diner
 - King Ro Market
 - Digital/Changeable Signs (individual lighted bulbs that are easily changeable or are able to change messages without human interaction)
 - Hanley's Market (gas price sign on the awning over the pumps)
 - Ellingwood Information Center
- Mr. and Mrs. Means stated they had no issues with externally illuminated signs. Mrs. Means made the suggestion of limiting where in Bristol signs could go. Rose communicated the lack of zoning other than the Shoreland Zoning in the Town of Bristol. Therefore, we could not specify where signs could and could not be. This also brought the discussion to the Comprehensive Plan. A Comprehensive plan was approved at Town Meeting in 2004 as Article #70, however, was not approved by the State of Maine. Cox would like to have the State review the Plan as it was approved by the Town and provide recommendations on where the Plan could be improved or may be lacking for State standards.
- The board moved to the discussion surrounding questions to build a survey presented to the public for more feedback on what the objections were that caused the vote against the question at Special Town Meeting.
 - Difference between the sign types
 - Pictures of the different sign types
 - Time restrictions
 - Point out exempting gas station pricing signs
 - Frequency of how often the screen changes on Digital/Illuminated Signs
- Means had referenced Damariscotta's discussion surrounding the Lincoln Theater Digital Sign which the Town implemented a frequency at how often the screen could be changed.
- Cox addressed that currently the Town of Bristol has very few ordinances because residents do not want to have more restrictions. The board believes the overall

communication coming from residents is that the technology from digital signs is unappealing.

- Pendleton mentioned that it is not uncommon to go to northern Maine towns and all house numbers are digital illuminated signs.

House Keeping –

- Westhaver and Rose to work on red-line amendments to LUO and SZO.
 - Lack of Sign regulations in SZO
 - Larger signs allowable for Public Recreation
- Research whether how locations such as LaVerna Preserve are currently recorded on the Shoreland Zoning Map. Present feedback to board if any locations should be re-zoned to public recreation.
- Email board the by-laws surrounding attendance requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. The next meeting is to be held on Thursday, December 21st, 2017.

(Amended to indicate December 21st, 2017 meeting has been canceled).

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Westhaver
Staff Liaison

PLANNING BOARD APPROVED: _____