



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE NEW LONDON PLANNING BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Proposed Zoning Amendment- Sign Provisions

Thursday, March 5, 2015
Sydney Crook Conference Room
9:00 AM

Present: Paul Gorman (Vice Chair, chairing the meeting), Bill Dietrich, Emma Crane, and Liz Meller.

Staff: Lucy St. John, Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Others: Tom Cottrill, former Planning Board Chair and Bob Crane.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Paul Gorman. He explained that the subcommittee was established at the March 3, 2015 meeting to discuss comments provided at the Planning Board public hearing conducted on Tuesday, March 3rd. The subcommittee would review the comments and any others heard this morning and provide a recommendation to the Planning Board for the scheduled meeting to be held on Friday, March 6, 2015 at 5:00 p.m., in the Sydney Crook Conference Room.

The committee reviewed a revised draft document provided by former Chair Tom Cottrill and considered his comments regarding various elements of the draft language. Key concerns identified by Tom Cottrill included:

- The need for the current Planning Board to understand and be knowledgeable of the current regulations and efforts of the previous members when the current provisions were adopted.
- Compliance with Master Plan and he believes people in town don't want more or bigger signs.
- Enforcement of the current sign regulations, particularly relative to political signs, the NH Liquor Store, signs at Jakes, signs posted near the Interstate 89, off-site signs and other various sign violations around town.
- Flag and flag poles and number of flags allowed on each.
- Lighted signs and should consider incorporating the Dark Skies provisions.
- Some of the proposed language and the table confusing and hard to follow.
- Chamber of Commerce – sandwich board signs, and how much area of that site can be used to place such signs.
- Current definitions- sign and rider.
- How many signs a commercial business is allowed.

- Reorganization and correct numbering should be considered
- Directory signs- how many allowed
- Contractor-professional signs – how many and size allowed per site
- Agricultural and political uses, references to the RSAs

Ms. St. John commented that the Zoning Ordinance is an evolving document and changes are needed. She noted that people have conveyed that the current ordinance is hard to understand and that there are people in town who have expressed the desire to have more flexibility and options than the current sign provisions allow.

At about 10:45 Paul Gorman asked Tom Cottrill if he had any other significant comments. He provided staff a copy of his handwritten edited version, including his edited version of the Quick Reference Table. The subcommittee then discussed the comments raised by Tom Cottrill. Tom Cottrill inquired if those in attendance should stay for the discussion. Ms. St. John specifically stated that it is a public meeting and all are welcome and encouraged to stay for the subcommittee discussion.

Paul Gorman asked each subcommittee member for their input. Emma stated the table needs to be simpler. Liz Meller likes the table. Bill Dietrich commented that he still has some concerns and noted his experience on the Hanover Planning Board and that amendments of any subject require an understanding of the whole Ordinance. Paul Gorman asked staff if the reorganization and comments of the subcommittee could be addressed in a revised draft for the meeting on Friday, March 6th. Staff was directed to incorporate various changes and provide a draft for the Planning Board to review and discuss at their meeting on Friday, March 6th.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy A. St. John, AICP Planning and Zoning Administrator