

# Williamsburg Planning Board



141 Main Street, P.O. Box 447

Haydenville, Massachusetts 01039-0447

Ph: (413) 268-8400

Fax: (413) 268-8409

Minutes of meeting for May 4, 2009:

Members present: Roger Bisbee, Neal Anderson, Andy Soles, Steve Snow, Tim McQueston, Jim Locke

Others present: Martin Mahoney, Lisa Berkman, Gerry Mann

Chairman Bisbee called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Discussion:

- Chair noted letter from Kopelman & Page (town counsel) re Section 14.0, 14.1, 14.2
  
- Chair noted receipt of informational letter re an ARHC proposed for the Orwat property off Petticoat Lane. He will bring a copy to the Selectboard meeting 5/7.
  
- AT 7:28, three members of the ZBA joined us for a discussion of Town sign bylaw language:
  - a. LB: ZBA requested this meeting because the sign bylaw is not working for new applicants. Now that the Town has 3 zoning districts, we should tailor a bylaw to those distinctions
  - b. MM: wants to review the bylaw as regards multiple businesses sharing one premises. This was brought up by Andrew Quient in re his business location.
  - c. LB: Quient and Bakery compete for the square footage – shouldn't be that way
  - d. GM: problems appear to come from inconsistent enforcement – that's what it looks like
  - e. AS: this issue gets raised because there are so many non-conforming signs
  - f. MM: existing bylaw refers to street or curb signs only, not building signs
  - g. GM: I don't see how the existing bylaw permits building signs at all
  - h. LB: signs for B&B businesses maybe should be lighted for strangers
  - i. All – this seems like a good time to revamp and update the bylaw
  - j. AS/MM: street (ID for the roadway) signs need standards also, for a Special Permit to refer to
  - k. SS: can ZBA make an exception for Quient?
  - l. LB/GM: ZBA can't make exceptions or variances
  - m. MM: dangerous to try to amend a bylaw in Town Meeting piecemeal
  - n. GM: enforcement must be uniform for public to accept bylaw
  - o. JL: will changing the bylaw mean existing non-conforming signs are grandfathered?
  - p. GM: no, if non-conforming now, will still be non-conforming after bylaw changes
  - q. LB: thanks for taking this up no ZBA departs
  
- discussion continued

- a. Snow: if (inspector) Tacy and Selectboard come to the same meeting it might be confrontational
- b. McQuestion and Bisbee: Selectboard must authorize us to pursue a bylaw change – Bisbee will ask Selectboard to do so
- c. McQuestion: let's take a couple of meetings to get some information together before asking the Selectboard in
- d. Anderson: we should get together an "intent" statement to guide our discussions
- e. Snow: Has the Selectboard had complaints, or do we know how they've been handled?
- f. JL/AS: we need to ask Tacy how we can approach this topic to make enforcement workable and fair to all parties

PB meeting adjourned 8:53 PM. Next meeting 5/18/09, 7 PM, Rm. 202

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Locke

Roger Bisbee Tim McQuestion Steve Snow Andy Soles Jim Locke Neal Anderson  
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