

Planning Commission

Apr 18, 2017

The meeting of the Towanda Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the council room of the Towanda Municipal Building, 724 Main Street, Towanda PA.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Christini at 7:10 p.m.

Members Present: Larry Kacyon, Jimmy Lacek, Jim Lacek, Mark Christini

Members Absent: Erin Groves, Keith Long, Evelyn Sherburne, Karen Johnson

Others: Jim Haight, Public Works Code Enforcement Supervisor

Visitors: Tom Neilson representing the First Presbyterian Church, Dave Guffey

Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Jimmy Lacek, and seconded by Mr. Larry Kacyon to approve the meeting minutes of November 15, 2016 as written. Motion passed.

Re-Organization

Mr. Christini mentioned that since we do not have a full Board at this meeting that reorganization be postponed for another meeting.

New Business

Mr. Neilson had two requests for the Planning Commission; having an illuminated sign and having an additional sign facing Merrill Parkway. The First Presbyterian Church currently has an illuminated sign that was grandfathered in that faces Court Street; with the parking situation and traffic on Court Street not many people can see the sign that is why they request an additional sign be erected on Merrill Parkway that would be able to contain a message board that would highlight upcoming events for the Church. The current residential zoning ordinance [325-47 A (c) (1)] states that “signs identifying schools, colleges, churches, hospitals or other institutions of a similar public or semipublic nature may be erected and maintained however: (1) only one sign may be erected upon the premises unless the premises front upon more than one street, in which case up to two signs may be erected along each frontage. The wording is not contained in the commercial zoning ordinance.

Mr. Haight addressed the residential ordinance and requested the Board reconsider the verbiage of [325-47 A (c) (1)] to state: Only one sign may be erected upon the premises unless the premises front upon more than one street, in which case up to two signs may be erected: one facing each frontage. Mr. Kacyon made a motion that this verbiage be used per Mr. Haight’s request, Mr. Jim Lacek seconded, approved.

Mr. Haight also addressed the verbiage on 325-47 B (1) (c) “Regarding corner lots all setback requirements set out in 325-21D of the Code of the Borough of Towanda, Pennsylvania, shall be met”. Mr. Haight requested this be modified to: “Regarding corner lots, a maximum of two signs with one sign facing each frontage are permitted and all setback requirements set out in 325-21D of the Code of the Borough of Towanda, Pennsylvania, shall be met”. Mr. Kacyon made a motion that we change the ordinance 325-47 B (1) (c) per Mr. Haight’s recommendation, Mr. Jim Lacek seconded, approved.

Planning Commission

Apr 18, 2017

Mr. Neilson also requested the reasoning on prohibiting internally illuminated signs; Mr. Nielson stated that it is easier to update signs via computer then going out and changing lettering. Mr. Haight stated that the reasoning originally was to keep the commercial district from not having the neon or internally illuminated signs that some cities are inundated with.

Mr. Neilson requested that Council consider allowing the First Presbyterian Church to erect an additional sign on the Merrill Parkway and to also reconsider the view on internally illuminated signs.

Mr. Kacyon mentioned that Council may want to consider internally illuminated message boards at some point in the future as Towanda Borough needs to come into the modern age of advertising and communication.

Old Business

None

Adjournment

As there was nothing further to discuss Mr. Jim Lacek made a motion to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary