

Planning Commission

Jun 20, 2017

The meeting of the Towanda Borough Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, June 20, 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 Ms. Groves at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Larry Kacyon, Jimmy Lacek, Jim Lacek, Mark Christini, Erin Groves, Evelyn Sherburne, Karen Johnson

Members Absent: Keith Long,

Others: Jim Haight, Public Works Code Enforcement Supervisor

Visitors: None

Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Kacyon, and seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the meeting minutes of April 18, 2017 (No Quorum) as written. Motion passed.

Re-Organization

Mr. Lacek made the nomination for Mr. Kacyon to be Chair of the Planning Commission, Ms Groves seconded, approved.

Ms. Groves made the nomination for Ms. Johnson to be Vice – Chair of the Planning Commission Ms. Sherburne seconded, approved.

Board Vacancy

Mr. Christini informed the Board that Council has received interest from four individuals to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Ulatowski; they will be making a decision soon.

New Business

None

Quorum

Ms. Sherburne discussed the lack of a quorum in recent meetings of the Planning Commission; she mentioned the lack of regular meetings and the notification process. Mr. Christini mentioned that the role of the Planning Commission is to maintain and suggest zoning requirements as needed to Council and to work on the Borough's comprehensive plan; the current plan is more than fifteen years old and should be looked at; the maintenance of zoning is an as needed basis meeting and the comprehensive plan should be updated for future projects.

Planning Commission meeting dates are set in the beginning of the year and are the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Johnson mentioned if there is funding for any of the comprehensive plan projects; Mr. Haight stated that funding is and may be available from Harrisburg. Ms. Groves stated that maybe the

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plans can be projects that do not need funding. Having plans in writing are essential in case funding is available the plan would be in place to apply for the funding.

Old Business

Mr. Haight mentioned that Mr. Neilson representing the First Presbyterian Church has asked council for an additional detached sign and also requested that sign be internally illuminated.

Mr. Haight discussed the request made by Mr. Neilson and what needs to be corrected in the ordinance in order to have the additional sign erected; the internally illumination would go against our ordinance that is already in place; they can illuminate the sign that is currently have erected on Court Street as that is a grandfathered illuminated sign but the new sign cannot be illuminated; the Court Street sign could not be altered in any way the illumination would have to fit in the current configuration.

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. Christini made a motion that this verbiage be used per Mr. Haight’s request, Ms. Sherburne 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. Christini made a motion that we change the ordinance 325-47 B (1) (c) per Mr. Haight’s recommendation, Ms. Groves seconded, approved.

Ms. Groves made a motion to keep 325-47 B (2) Illuminated signs. Illuminated signs may be erected and maintained; however, flashing signs, revolving illuminated signs and stationary internally illuminated signs are prohibited; as written, seconded by Jimmy Lacey, approved.

Adjournment

As there was nothing further to discuss Mr. Jim Lacey made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
April Maynard
Recording Secretary

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