

SIGN ORDINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE –Feb.24, 2010

At the request of a member of the Town Council the Derry Planning Board's Sign Ordinance committee held a workshop on Thursday, February 25, 2010, beginning at 4:30PM. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss potential revisions to Article XII. Signs & Billboards and related requirements.

Sub-Committee members present: Bob Markey, John O'Connor:

Also present: Rick Metts

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Upon review of the Zoning ordinance, Dec.17, 2009 we had found that the sign requirements are listed in numerous locations. It was decided that we would combine these within Article XII. It was noted that there are conflicts within zoning Districts and these will be addressed in further workshops.

It was determined that we would approach a complete review of the Article XII. It will be the intent to upgrade our ordinance by reviewing Model ordinances along other town ordinances.

Areas that needed updating or folding under Article XII are: Definitions, Measurement requirements, for sale signs, Conflicting districts, and Electronic Led signs (new technologies). Also, campaign signs regulated by State statute.

In addition we would review Overlay districts such as Neighborhoods, Traditional (TBD), and Historical Districts.

Permitting and Temporary permits, with specific time limitations and locations are subject for review and change.

Enforcement was a topic of discussion by a few of the councilors and requested that we look into this. Currently Code enforcement tries to work with the violator in resolving the issue. When that doesn't work then legal proceedings need to be initiated. This is a concern with Code enforcement in that having limited resources along with hiring outside Attorneys at the towns expense. It was suggested that with the recent hiring of the Town prosecutor these legal proceedings can be handled internal thus saving expense. This is typical with other communities. John O'Connor will contact Mr. Stenhouse and Chief Garone to further discuss this approach.

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It is the committee's intent to reach out to the Chairs of all the Town's Boards and Committees to seek their input. We will also be reaching out to the local Chamber of Commerce to inform them of this review process, with the overall goal in improving the appearance of our town.

Once the committee feels the document worthy of review we will then bring it to the whole board for future workshops comments.

The next scheduled meeting is on March 11, 2010 at 4:30 in room 207 in the Town Hall.

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