



City of Barre, Vermont

“Granite Center of the World”

Planning, Permitting & Assessing Services

6 N. Main St., Suite 7
Barre, VT 05641
Telephone (802) 476-0245

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes July 13, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. Council Chambers, City Hall (6 N Main St)

A regular meeting of the Barre City Planning Commission was called to order by Commission Chair Jackie Calder at 6:30 pm at Barre City Hall. In attendance were Commissioners Jim Hart, Michael Hellein and Ken Lunde. Absent was Commissioner Dave Sichel. Also in attendance were Janet Shatney, Planning Director, and Heather Grandfield, Permit Administrator, and Ms. Brandy Saxton of PlaceSense. Chair Calder determined a quorum was present.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Chair Calder said there will be adjustments to the order of the agenda to accommodate those in attendance.

Visitors and Communications: Mr. Paul Malone of the Spaulding High School (SHS) School Board was present to talk about the SHS proposed digital sign and the granite framework for the sign.

Old Business: Consideration of the June 22, 2017 meeting minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Hart and seconded by Commissioner Hellein to approve the minutes as printed, *motion carried.*

Mr. Malone stated that he got an email from the Mayor requesting him to come to the Planning Commission meeting, hence his attendance. He said that the SHS school sign is deteriorating, and they have spent significant time and expense on the upkeep and appearance of their campus, and would like the sign to reflect their actions.

He laid out the issues SHS perceives at this time: He said that SHS was under the impression they were going to be able to install their digital sign by this fall (2017); Rock of Ages has donated the granite for the framework, the engraving and the embossing. He stressed the importance of their desire for the new sign as well as the timeframe.

He questioned if SHS should go ahead and let their resources know to get this done as he says that the existing sign doesn't do an adequate job of informing the public, the students or the parents of all events and concerns going on at SHS, and cannot change the sign as readily needed to keep all informed. He further states that the existing sign is an eyesore compared to the upgrades that they continue to do around the campus. SHS doesn't want to move ahead without

knowing what can and cannot be done at this point. Mr. Malone said the digital sign is approx. 18% smaller in size compared to the current sign [changeable letter]. SHS hopes to achieve a stylistic approach, creating an elegant and beautiful sign [granite framework] that the artists will make.

Commissioner Hellein stated that he recalls stating to the other SHS representatives [on April 13, 2017] that wouldn't do any special change using an interim zoning ordinance revision. Digital signs under the current regulations are not allowed anywhere in the City, and to allow digital signs would have to be attached to a specific zoning district, not a specific entity, and with the zoning ordinance re-write currently under way, those districts are now in flux.

Mr. Malone went on to go through the specifics of the proposed sign SHS wants to install, its square footage, height, etc. It was suggested that SHS submit a letter to the Commission with their sign needs so that they have a clear definition moving forward, and the Commission will be able to take into consideration any revisions to square footage numbers in the draft.

Chair Calder stressed again that the regulations are still being worked on, and will not do an interim zoning revision for the reasons stated earlier. She also stated that erecting the granite framework is a risk they are taking, and there is no guarantee that it will meet what ends up being approved.

The Commission went over the revised schedule as proposed by Ms. Saxton, and meetings, sharing information, etc. The 2nd review drafts will be shared on the city website and among several committees and the Council to continue to solicit input.

Location standards in the draft were finished up, and then a start of the Specific Use standards was done. These Specific Uses Standards are all proposed language that the City doesn't currently have.

Director Shatney reminded the Commission that the BCA will be holding a hearing on July 27th at the same time as this meeting, and the consensus was to stay in City Hall.

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Roundtable: None.

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm was made by Commissioner Hellein, and seconded by Commissioner Hart, *motion carried*.

There is no audio recording of this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet E. Shatney, Director