

- PUBLIC MEETING -

Ordinance Review Committee

Thursday, January 22, 2015
8:00 a.m. @ Rockport Town Office
Richardson Room

PLANNER'S NOTES

1. Introductions. In attendance were John Alexander, Will Gartley, Larry Goldman, Terri Mackenzie, Tracy Murphy, Richard Remsen (Chair), Molly Sholes, and Steve Smith.
2. Correspondence. In response to staff questions, members discussed some guidelines for communications. It appeared to be the consensus of those present that email between meetings will be a helpful and appropriate way to share research, explore issues and revise drafts. Jamie said that anyone who requested to be added to his email list would be included on all his messages to the Committee. It was further decided that Jamie's informal Meeting Notes would be maintained as a record of Committee meetings.
3. Work Plan Item #1 – Section 801.6 Nuisances. Reconsider draft language prepared last year [NB: see attached “Ordinance Review Committee – 2014 Work Tasks with draft language]. This is a proposal to extend the evening hours during which amplified may be permitted under certain circumstances.

MOTION: On a motion by Will, seconded by Steve, the Committee voted to recommend the same language as presented last year on this item. In discussion the Committee raised and dismissed several observations and alternative strategies. For example it appeared to be the consensus of those present to give no weight to the observation that a single, well-known outdoor charity event is perceived by some as being the reason for this proposed amendment. The Committee did not think it would be beneficial to limit the number of occurrences per year as the language of the proposed amendment leaves this in the hands of the Select Board.

VOTED: Unanimously in favor.

4. Work Plan Item #2 – Section 1103.4 Sign Standards. Reconsider draft language prepared last year. This proposal would increase the maximum area of signs

permitted in several zoning districts (but not residential districts) and clarify whether or not signs that are not in view from a public way are to be regulated.

In discussion it was noted that a proposal for new signage visible from Route 1 at Pen Bay Medical Center would be in excess of current area limitations for the Hospital and Resort zoning district 909. It was very quickly determined that the Committee has no intention of recommending that the Town regulate signs on campus at private facilities, especially if not visible to drivers in the public way.

It was suggested that the maximum total area of signs in this zoning district be significantly increased and that the traditional "H" symbol be limited to a certain percentage of the total area on either side.

It appeared to be the consensus of the group to recommend that the maximum total area for both sides of a double-sided sign be two times greater than the maximum total area of a single-sided sign. There may not be time to address this in 2015.

A number of items were suggested for continued research and review:

- Talk to Scott Bickford. Any signs recently taken down / found to be in violation?
- Get drawings of proposal from Hospital or from ORC member notes from 2014.
- Is Southbound, left-turning traffic a big part or a small part of the problem?
- Could signs for Southbound, left-turning traffic be located across the road some distance away, perhaps on leased property? Would this make it "billboard?"

5. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m. Chair Richard Remsen indicated that meetings would continue weekly on Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. at the Town Office until the Select Board's regular meeting of March or April.

These notes match my recollection of last week's discussion.

Prepared by:



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Dated:

2015-01-29