

- PUBLIC MEETING -

Ordinance Review Committee

Thursday, January 29, 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, Ken McKinley, Tracy Murphy, Richard Remsen (Chair), Molly Sholes, and Steve Smith.
2. Correspondence. A letter from Alex Armentrout dated July 8, 2014 was provided. Some members recognized it from last year but, as I had only recently received it, I thought it would be worthwhile to review. Members noted that the dimensions provided were helpful for the ongoing discussion and graphic design as a stand-alone issue was also duly noted but all present seemed to doubt that graphic design could or should be regulated.
3. Work Plan Item #2 – Section 1103.4 Sign Standards. Reconsider draft language prepared last year. [See Agenda Packet for January 22 meeting.] 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.

This time discussion began centered on a 2014 rendering provided by Pen Bay Healthcare showing a sign that had been designed for them with dimensions 9' x 25' [see "Main Entry Refinement" by Omloop Design in Agenda Packet for the January 29 meeting]. The Committee also reviewed photos taken the previous day out on Route 1 in that vicinity [see January 28 – Existing Signs"].

Discussion addressed two main points. First, the question of double-sided signs and single-sided signs – should they have same total area or should the former have twice the total area of the latter? Second, the question of how much larger signs in the Section 909 Hospital and Resort zoning district should get as a result of the proposed zoning amendment.

An approach suggested by Will for the calculation of total sign area appeared to be good compromise position. This approach would increase the maximum size somewhat and would allow a double-sided sign to have two times the sign area of a single-sided sign. . Ken suggested that I draft language for the Committee's consideration at the meeting of February 5, 2015.

Regarding the proposed increase in the allowable size in the Section 909 zoning district there was good consensus that Pen Bay's request deserved consideration no matter how it came to light and that some increase in maximum area would be appropriate, however all present thought the 9' x 25' double-sided sign depicted in the 2014 rendering was too large. Only one person present appeared to believe that the present maximum sign area is acceptable and should not be changed.

4. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

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

Prepared by:



James P. Francomano, Director
Planning and Development Dept.

Dated:

2015-02-05