



RUTLAND CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

City Hall – 52 Washington St. – Rutland, VT 05701
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 969 – Rutland, VT 05702
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2/17/2016

Minutes February 17, 2016

Present: Dave Coppock (DC), Susan Schreiber (SS), Alvin Figiel (AF) and Patrick Griffin (PG).

Also Present: Bob Barrett, City Building Inspector.

DC, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

I. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS – The following items were added to the agenda under Old Business: Complete Streets status update and discussion with Brennan Duffy regarding Gateway Pedestrian Improvements.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 3, 2016.

PG moved to approve the minutes of February 3, 2016. AF seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – None.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

Complete Streets: DC said he spoke with Jeff regarding in update on the Complete Streets planning process. An administrative group made up of Jeff, Jim, Cindi Wight, Kevin Geno and Brennan Duffy are working on the draft plan. In addition to using the Burlington Complete Streets as a model they are also looking at other relevant towns. They hope to have the draft available for review in April. PG asked if the Commission would receive a copy of the draft and DC said both the Commission and Aldermen will review the draft.

Gateway Pedestrian Improvements: DC said he spoke to Brennan with regard to the design of the gateway pedestrian improvements on Strongs Avenue and Merchants Row. He was told that all modes of transportation were considered in the design which is expected to be completed in another month.

Sign Ordinance: Using a projector, the Commission was able to view Google Maps to continue its work on the sign ordinance. Looking at Woodstock Avenue it was determined that it should be its own “district” and that for free-standing signs: max height 8 ft., max area 12 sq. ft., all externally illuminated, 1 sign allowed.

AF suggested a separate section for gas station signs. He also suggested that PG look into curb cut dimensions. They viewed gas stations in Manchester.

There was discussion regarding commercial properties, with more than one tenant, use the street address on their sign or some other single name to identify the location. Discussion continued with allowing some flexibility with multi-tenant signs. The Commission viewed similar signs in South Burlington using Google Maps.

AF said with regard to the residences and professional office make up of Gouger Hill, Gateway Business 1 & 2, Courthouse and Main Street Park district, there should be a max 12 sq. ft. free standing signs at 6 ft. max height, externally illuminated and a 4 sq. ft. directory sign.

PG said to codify that there are no free standing signs in the Downtown District.

DC suggested getting legal ease from VLCT with regard to right-of-way signs as in the instance of the three free-standing signs at Trolley Center.

SS suggested photo shopping proposed signage to compare with existing signage.

AF said no signs should be mounted to the top of buildings like Swards and CJs.

Proposed changes to the sign ordinance for each district include: South/North Main Street, free standing signs 10 ft. max height, 32 sq. ft. max area, external illumination; building signs max area 1 sq. ft. per lineal ft. of building frontage; max height – not over the roof; and externally illuminated. State/West, Planned Office Park and Neighborhood Business can have 1 free standing sign, 8ft. high max, and 12 sq. ft. max area.

Proposed building signs in residential neighborhoods should be 4 sq. ft. max, 5 ft. max height and unlit.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE.

VII. ADJOURN.

The next meeting will be held at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 2. AF moved to adjourn. PG seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:51 pm.

For the Commission
Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary