RUTLAND CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

City Hall – 52 Washington St. – Rutland, VT 05701
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 969 – Rutland, VT 05702
Phone: 802-773-1800

4/13/2016

Minutes
April 13, 2016

Present: Dave Coppock (DC), Susan Schreibman (SS), Alvin Figiel (AF), Larry Walter (LW), Patrick Griffin (PG) and Bob Barrett, City Building Inspector.

DC, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

I. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS – None.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 23, 2016.

AF moved to approve the minutes of March 23, 2016. LW seconded. Susan asked to change the word "onto" on page 2 first paragraph to "to." Motion carried unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – None.

V. OLD BUSINESS – Sign Ordinance.

PG asked the Commission to confirm that the information on the grid is correct. Alvin suggested that the column "#of Signs" should include the word "Freestanding." Bob said that both freestanding and building signs should be externally lit.

There was discussion regarding "open" signs. Dave was opposed to flashing neon. AF thought open/close signs may be necessary. Discussion continued with regard to reader signs and specifically the Rutland Fairgrounds sign. SS said that sign would be grandfathered. PG asked about special event signage. Bob said the current sign ordinance allows for 32 sq. ft. for 14 days. SS read from the Manchester Sign Ordinance with regard to temporary signs needing proof of 501c3 status. Susan said reader boards should be prohibited in all districts including downtown. DC suggesting using the Manchester language for prohibited signs.

Discussion continued regarding projected signs, those signs hung perpendicular to buildings. The Manchester sign ordinance allows project signs on a 1-1 basis and they are hung 8 ft. above the sidewalk. AF said they should not be allowed in the Gouger Hill, GateWBus-1, GateWBus-2, Courthouse and Main St. Park district. PG asked if the State/West Woodstock Planned Office and NeighBus district should be consolidated with Gate W 4&7. The consensus was yes.

AF discussed how he overlaid the Historic District with the DT Biz District and suggested that this district needs to be reviewed in isolation with its own definition. Discussion ensued regarding the DT Biz District. DC said the plaza should be a separate district and there should be stricter signage rules for the historic district and residential areas. AF offered to create sign guidelines for this district for the next meeting.

DC discussed whether neon signs should be allowed for "open" signs and whether they would be mounted inside only. There was some argument for allowing neon in all districts. DC said it would have to be "electrically charged neon gas." PG thought it should be restricted to downtown.

AF suggested that signage in the Industrial district should be treated the same as in the S. Main/N. Main St. district. The Strongs Avenue gateway was discussed because of the current industrial use. It was determined that the signage for Strongs Avenue signage would be the same as GateW 4& 7.

The Commission discussed signage for gas stations in Vergennes and Manchester. It was concluded that only one freestanding sign have a max height of 10 ft., max area of 32 sq. ft., exterior illuminated only. The lineal feet of the building will be used to determine the total sign allotment which includes both the building and the canopy. Bob said it doesn't matter what district the gas station is located in; they should have their own signage rules so as not to discriminate.

Discussion continued on how best to light the gas prices that change constantly. It was determined that further research needed to be conducted.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE.

3/30/16 – Kenlan Schwiebert Facey & Goss PC, re: College of St. Joseph – Amendment to Act 250 Permit #1R0772 Series.

AF moved to receive and place on file. SS seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. ADJOURN.

AF moved to adjourn. SS seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 7:39 pm. The next meeting will be held April 27.

For the Commission
Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary