

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES**

January 18, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The Williamstown Township Planning Commission convened at 7:30pm at the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, MI. Chair Eidt called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda.

PRESENT: Chair Eidt, Vice Chair LaMore, Secretary Brown-Timm, Commissioners Giese, Weston, Davis.

ABSENT: Commissioners DeShon, Korson and Trustee Eyster. Quorum established.

ALSO PRESENT: Planning Consultant Chris Doozan of McKenna Associates and Planning Assistant Jim Howard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Weston, second by Davis to approve the minutes of November 16, 2016.

Motion approved 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No citizens present.

Commissioner Giese took the podium to express her appreciation for the township park (“love our park”) and offer kudos to the park staff. Chair Eidt agreed and mentioned the profusion of wildflowers in the spring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of Sign Ordinance

Chair Eidt suggested that the best way to proceed would be to use the summary of comments as a guide to review the ordinance.

It was mentioned that the reason for the complete replacement of the document was due to the recent Supreme Court decision.

Another recommendation was to prohibit electronic signs, but regulate the two existing signs.

Chris D. explained that there must be some basis for regulation. He further explained that restricting electronic signs to time, temperature and stocks would be content-based. There are also safety and aesthetic concerns. Also, as far as a limitation on hours or number of colors used, there would be no basis for this type of regulation.

Discussion ensued regarding gas station signage and pricing, as well as bank time and temperature, with general agreement that it should be incorporated within their allowed signage. There was also consensus to take out electronic signs, therefore item 7.05.D.6 needs to be deleted.

Regarding Section 7.05.F.6.c, Kalamazoo County has been deleted and replaced with the Ingham County Road Department.

At Section 7.05F.7 the ordinance should be changed to reflect just one sign allowed at major points of entry.

After reviewing the suggestion for Residential District Signs (Section 7.07.E.1) to delete the last sentence reading “Where there are additional permitted uses on the parcel...” the Planning Commission decided the sentence should be kept intact.

At Section 7.07.E.2 the Planning Commission agreed with the recommendation to spell out the size here and limit it to less than 48 sq.ft. in a residential district (rather than referring back to another Section).

Section 7.07.E.5 needs to be deleted.

Section 7.08.D.2 (size of Freestanding Signs) – Planning Commission felt the size is appropriate.

Section 7.08.D.5 (electronic display) should be deleted.

Section 7.08.E – Planning Commission agreed that marquee signs should be limited to theaters.

Section 7.08.E.4 – Planning Commission recommended that the language stay as is, rather than limit it to one per **lot**.

Section 7.08.E.5 – Planning Commission agreed with the recommendation to limit the maximum size, decided 48 sq. ft. was appropriate.

Section 7.08.E.7 – regarding electronic signs needs to be deleted.

Section 7.08.G – (Temporary Signs) should be revised to send the reader directly to the table.

GENERALIZED SCHEDULE OF SIGN STANDARDS – footnote [d] should be revised to limit marquee signs to theaters.

TEMPORARY AND TEMPORARY PROMOTIAL SIGN STANDARDS (Table) – question was raised as to whether the Duration for Lines 2 and 3 should be limited to 90 days; since real estate “For Sale” signs are included in this category, the Planning Commission felt the wording should stay as is.

Suggestion was made to eliminate Balloons, Inflatables, Searchlights, Feather Banners and Pennants. Since these are common types of advertising the Planning Commission felt these should be kept in but regulated, with searchlights limited to a 4 hour period after dusk.

Section 7.07.F – reference to 7.05.G needs to be deleted, and add sandwich boards as permitted in residential districts.

Motion by Giese, second by Brown-Timm to recommend to the Township Board approval of the changes to the Sign Ordinance.

Motion approved 6-0.

PLANNING AND BOARD REPORTS AND REVIEW

Howard mentioned that the Township Board is working on a Fireworks Ordinance which should come before the planning commission at the March meeting. He also offered clarification of an article that appeared in the Williamston Enterprise concerning Rex LaMore being installed as president of MAP (MI Association of Planning) and Jerry Eidt being recognized for his 20 years of membership in MAP.

Chair Eidt remarked that the Township Park is a treasure.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None. Closed at 8:32pm.

REVIEW

Chair Eidt recapped the Planning Commission's review of the Sign Ordinance and recommendation to the Township Board.

Motion by Davis, second by Brown-Timm to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.

Jim Howard

Recording Secretary

Secretary Joscelyn Brown-Timm