

TOWN OF STAMFORD
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
February 10, 2025
(UNAPPROVED)

Planning Commission: Daniel Potvin, Chair, Alden Finney, Peter Greenbush, Lisa Gramlin, Marta Miller, David Saldo, Jim Stimpson, and David Tatro.

Sheila Lawrence was not present.

Visitors: Jedidiah Gramlin, Sheila Pecor, Debra Righi, James Righi, and Diane Saldo.

Dan Potvin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

HEARING OF VISITORS: None.

MINUTES:

MOTION by Jim Stimpson to accept the regular meeting minutes of January 13, 2025 as written.

SECONDED by Marta Miller. Peter, Dan, and Dave Tatro abstained as they were not present at the last meeting. All others in favor of accepting the minutes as written. Motion APPROVED.

DISCUSSION:

1) SIGN BYLAWS

Marta asked that we clarify 17.16.1.a. to read: "Outdoor signs for an existing on premise use shall be permitted only on the property". Jim clarified that we are changing the entire bylaw, not just adding an amendment, since sections referencing signs must be removed under each of the districts (rural, residential, and forest) and the new, stand alone sign section added in. Dan reminded the board that we are a recommending board only and this bylaw change will go to the Select Board next for them to either approve or put to a town vote.

Pete noted that the speed limit sign for the school zone is on at erratic times of day/night, especially due changes such as Daylight Saving Time. The school is supposed to be in charge of setting it. Dave T. Reported that the timing of the sign is under control of the school and thinks that the task might have gotten lost with the staff turnover. Pete will talk to someone at the school and be sure they are aware.

The board went over the sign bylaw, line by line. Lisa found that 7.16.1.c., limiting all nonresidential signs to 16 sq.ft, nullifies allowable municipal signage outlined in 17.6.2.a. Marta suggested that we insert language specifying that the size limitations to exclude municipal signs. In discussion of 7.16.2.b. regarding sign height Pete had concerns regarding slope. The board decided to take this into account and expand sign height to 8 feet as measured from tallest side. Lisa wanted to clarify that commercial signs would also fall under the same parameters as other nonresidential signage. The board discussed the state statute regarding municipal signs, which is limited to 64 sq. ft. While most members thought this was rather large, it was decided to keep the state law as the guidance with the municipality using its discretion in future sign construction. Pete pointed out that just because a municipal sign can be 64 sq. ft, it doesn't have to be that large. Jim reiterated that we're simply following the law already written by the state. Dan encouraged anyone who felt strongly about any portion of this bylaw attend

the meeting when it moves to the Select Board. Jim asked to change 7.16.2.i. regarding farm operations from 6 sq ft to 16 sq ft. The number of signs allowed was discussed.

Lisa will add that only one sign per premise is allowed unless otherwise approved and that sign square footage denotes per face.

David Saldo brought up points regarding the DOT, the scenic highway, and the history of the playground. There was some debate about these regulations. Dave Tatro stated that technically our sign must be on breakaway posts. Dave S. has a list of people to call for more information. The continuing process was discussed. The Planning Commission must next hold a public hearing and allow for comments.

Aldi asked what makes a municipality exempt. It was explained that “exempt” refers to the permitting process and that going forward the town would not need to acquire a permit in order to put up a sign. This rule comes directly from the state Title 10.

MOTION by Dan to approve the new bylaw with changes made to be submitted for a public hearing. SECONDED by Marta Miller. All except David Saldo in favor. MOTION PASSES.

2. BCRC LETTER

The board reviewed the letter written by the Conservation Commission to BCRC regarding the new Regional Plan. The Conservation Commission would like the Planning Commission to sign onto the letter as well. MOTION by David Saldo to sign the letter. SECONDED by Lisa Gramlin. All in favor. MOTION PASSES.

OLD BUSINESS: Jim is still working on the solar aspect. He is still trying to determine size, location, etc. The old town dump was considered; however, Dave Tatro informed the board that it is a brush dump which is required by law. Other potential locations were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

The board discussed communication. Going forward, only the chair (or vice chair, acting as chair), shall have the power to cancel a meeting. The chair now has a key to the building so this won't be an issue in the future. Lisa volunteered to call all board members in the future in the case of a cancellation. Marta also likes the predetermined expectation of meeting on the second Monday of the month. Also, board members were reminded to reply to “all” when trying to coordinate via email.

MOTION by Dan Potvin to adjourn. SECONDED by Marta Miller. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting adjourned at 8:38p.m.

Lisa Gramlin
Planning Commission Clerk