

**TOWN OF STAMFORD**  
**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEETING**  
**November 12, 2024**  
**(UNAPPROVED)**

Present: Board Members: Jean E. Kurpiel, Chair, Theodore N. Dobbert, Sheila G. Lawrence, Sheila Pecor, David Saldo.

Appellant: Town of Stamford (Selectboard): John Dunn, Kurt Gamari, Nancy Bushika, and Doug Wright.

Visitors: None.

Debra Burchard, Zoning Administrator.

Lori A. Shepard, Clerk.

Jean Kurpiel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Sheila Pecor sat in the audience and did not participate as a board member.

The board entertained discussion on ZBA Permit #252 (Building permit application #2024-11) from the Town of Stamford to install a new town sign. A variance is requested for setback requirements (50 feet from the centerline of the Main Road) pursuant to Section 4.4 – Dimensional Standards. John Dunn explained that the size of the sign is in compliance as it is less than the 12 square foot restriction. The town would like to position the sign 35 feet in from the centerline of the road and is looking for a variance for the 50 foot setback. The sign will be perpendicular to the road.

Dave Saldo advised that the state's right-of-way is wider on the west side of the road and narrower on the east side so the town could install the sign a little closer and still be outside of the state's right-of-way. Dave Saldo felt that the two metal poles of the prior sign would have been a problem with the state. Kurt Gamari was not recognized to have the floor, was disruptive, and was asked to leave the meeting.

Deb Burchard stated that she was a new Zoning Administrator at the time of the permit for the previous sign. She was mentored by representatives at the Vermont League of Cities & Towns and the Bennington County Regional Commission, who supported her decision to deny the first permit. The town attorney, whose opinion was requested by the Selectboard, also gave similar advice. The setback is 50 feet from the road centerline to a building. Although a sign is not a building, it could be considered a structure, so there is ambiguity in the town's By-laws. Deb Burchard felt if the Zoning Board was going to follow the state statute that was brought up recently, that it does not apply in this instance because the town can be more restrictive than the state, but not less restrictive. Deb Burchard would support the Zoning Board's decision to grant a variance for the setback, but the same could have been said for the original sign. Dave Saldo said the Zoning Board has not acknowledged the state statute. Dave Saldo read section 4.1.7 of the town By-laws pertaining to signs which states that the sign cannot be more than 12 square feet. This sign is in compliance with the size requirement and he feels that no variance is needed for the setback. John Dunn felt that 35 feet in from the road is a safe distance and wants to make sure that all of the rules are followed.

MOTION by Dave Saldo that a variance is not needed for the sign. SECONDED by Ted Dobbert. 4 in favor. Sheila Pecor did not vote. Motion APPROVED.

The Zoning Administrator will be instructed to approve the sign with the normal 14 day waiting period.

MINUTES

MOTION by Sheila Lawrence to accept the regular meeting minutes of February 20, 2024 as written. SECONDED by Dave Saldo. 4 in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Ted Dobbert to adjourn. SECONDED by Dave Saldo. 4 in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Lori A. Shepard, Clerk

/las