



RUTLAND CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

City Hall – 52 Washington St. – Rutland, VT 05701
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Amended Minutes September 27, 2017

Present: Susan Schreibman (SS), Dave Coppock (DC), Larry Walter (LW) and Alvin Figiel (AF).

Also Present: Alderman Mattis, Tara Kelly and Barbara Spaulding, recording secretary.

SS, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

- I. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS – None.**
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT – None.**
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 13, 2017.**

LW moved to approve the minutes of September 13, 2017. AF seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- IV. NEW BUSINESS – None.**
- V. OLD BUSINESS – Zoning Bylaws Advisory Group.**

SS discussed an email she sent to the Zoning Bylaws Advisory Group suggesting that the Committee allow Tara and Susan to edit the “skeleton” ordinance provided by Orion. This will allow the Committee to have sections to review and react to and discuss. This will expedite the process and keep the number of meetings within the proposed timeframe.

Sign Ordinance Outreach.

SS said the presentation held on Sept. 13 had good conversation. The consensus was to make a presentation to the Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC) of the Board of Aldermen next.

Aldermen Mattis said she gave a brief blurb regarding the Planning Commission’s efforts and request to make a presentation to the CEDC. Despite one alderman’s negative remarks the request was approved. However prior to making the presentation to the CEDC it should be tweaked. And, there were a number of questions about how South Burlington is doing things. Tara said she is meeting with folks from South Burlington on Thursday and will report back to the Planning Commission.

SS said she invited Lyle Jepson and Mary Cohen to the next Planning Commission meeting on Oct. 11 to see the revised presentation. She and Tara had discussed whether or not the Planning Commission should be the ones doing the outreach or should the draft document be handed over to Tara and Bob Tanner to shepherd along.

Tara said after talking with the Mayor about the revisions she is confident in where the changes to the presentation need to occur. Their conversation was more productive when she did not focus on free-standing signs. They discussed how signs are more about locating a business than advertising and how out of scale Rutland's signs are in relation to other towns.

Discussion continued regarding who should shepherd the document through the process and the challenge of moving this new set of regulations with clearer standards through the process. Tara suggested adding a series of photos of new signs which are shorter and smaller and presenting data to show how close these new signs are to the proposed sign ordinance. This will reflect what is happening on the ground. The consensus was to hand off the document to Tara and Bob to move through the process.

Alderman Mattis suggested surveying businesses on how they choose a sign. DC said the focus needs to be on the overall mass of the sign as there is no design review in the new ordinance. LW said a 30mph recognition study should be included in the presentation. AF said that Kevin Lynch, an urban planner, has published such a study.

SS asked how the Planning Commission should proceed with the Oct. 11 meeting. Tara offered to make the necessary changes to the presentation prior to Oct. 11. LW said the Google Map should be included in the presentation. Barbara was asked to look for the spreadsheet of North Main Street sign sizes prepared by LW.

The Planning Commission will host the sign ordinance presentation for Lyle and Mary on Oct. 11.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE – None.

VII. ADJOURN.

DC moved to adjourn. The meeting ended at 6:02 pm.

For the Commission:

Barbara Spaulding, Recording Secretary