

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION August 8, 2011 Meeting

Commission Members Present: Alan Gannuscio, Vincent Zimnoch, Janet Ramsay,
Anthony Scarfo, and Jim Szepanski

Town Staff Present: Temporary Town Planning Coordinator and Assistant Zoning and
Wetlands Officer John Szczesny, Town Engineer Dana Steele and
Town Planning Consultant Michael O'Leary

Chairman Gannuscio called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Gannuscio stated that Marshall Brown had submitted his letter of resignation from the Commission on June 8, 2011. He noted that Mr. Brown had been a member of the Commission since May, 1990 and then thanked Mr. Brown for his service and perseverance over the years. Mr. Gannuscio went on to say that Jim Szepanski was now a regular member of the Commission and no longer an alternate.

Commission roll call was taken.

MINUTES:

Chairman Gannuscio referred to the May 9, 2011 meeting minutes and asked the Commission members and staff for any comments or corrections. Mr. Szepanski commented that he had not come prepared that evening, because he had been under the impression that the Recording Secretary was going to redo the minutes verbatim for that meeting. Mr. Gannuscio suggested that they put off any vote on the May 9, 2011 meeting minutes until September. Mr. Szepanski commented that that would be best to allow the Recording Secretary to redo the minutes verbatim to what had been said at that meeting rather than paraphrasing. He went on to say that he felt that it was important to have a transcript of the meeting due to the Margueritas' situation.

Per a conversation with the Chairman, any further detail added to the May 9, 2011 meeting minutes will be discussed before any further actions are taken.

Chairman Gannuscio referred to the June 13, 2011 meeting minutes and asked the Commission members and staff for any comments or corrections. They had none. Mr. Gannuscio moved to approve the June 13, 2011 meeting minutes, as published. Mr. Zimnoch seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5 – 0, the motion was approved.

Chairman Gannuscio noted that Jim Tatro, a former Commission member, had recently passed away.



PUBLIC HEARINGS:

a. Continued public hearing on the application to amend Section 605 and add new Sections 607 and 602d to the Zoning Regulations.

Chairman Gannuscio read the legal notice that was published in the Journal Inquirer on July 27 and August 4, 2011.

Chairman Gannuscio noted that Mr. Steele and Mr. O'Leary had been working on the language and possibly a sketch, but that they had decided on some language changes only. Mr. O'Leary stated that that was correct and explained that they had simplified the language in Section 602 D so that a sketch would not be necessary. He then pointed out that that would also simplify the enforcement of the Regulations.

Mr. O'Leary stated that he had emailed a copy of the Political/Election Signs language with a revision date of August 6, 2011 to the Commission members. He explained that from his notes and the minutes from the June meeting he had incorporated comments made at that meeting into the proposed language.

Mr. O'Leary read new proposed Section 602 D as follows:

öSigns shall not be permitted in a location or area so as to create a traffic hazard, or otherwise obstruct the view from motor vehicles. In addition, signs shall not be permitted:

1. Within 15 feet of the nearest edge of any street pavement; and,
2. Within any public right-of-way.ö

Chairman Gannuscio stated that he liked the way that the Regulations were now written and clarified. He went on to say that both Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Steele had done a good job. The other Commission members all agreed with Mr. Gannuscio.

Chairman Gannuscio asked for any public comments in favor of the application. There were none.

Chairman Gannuscio asked for any public comments in opposition to the application. There were none.

A brief discussion regarding enforcement of the new regulations took place. Mr. Szepanski suggested that in the future they look into amending Section 605. He went on to say that the way in which it was written would not allow for tag sale signs. The discussion continued briefly regarding tag sale signs.



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Chairman Gannuscio moved to approve new Section 602 D, new Section 605, and the removal of Section 605 K as written in the revision dated August 6, 2011 and effective September 1, 2011. Ms. Ramsay seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5 – 0, the motion was approved.

REVIEWS:

There were none.

ACTION ON CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Discussion with Commission and Staff

Chairman Gannuscio asked Mr. O'Leary if he had anything new for discussion. Mr. O'Leary replied that he did not, but then noted that at the June meeting they had discussed the possibility of having a special meeting in September to discuss Main Street. Mr. Gannuscio suggested that they make that discussion part of their regular meeting, since they had nothing scheduled for the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Public Input

There was none.

b. Receive New Applications

There were none.

c. Informal discussion regarding the T&M and North Group, LLC request for acceptance of roads.

Chairman Gannuscio asked Mr. Steele if he was still working with T&M and North Group. Mr. Steele replied that he was waiting for an as-built from them. Mr. Gannuscio stated that they would carry the discussion over to the September meeting.



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COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS:

There were none.

Chairman Gannuscio asked the Commission members to try to think of anyone, regardless of their political affiliation, who might want to join the Commission as an alternate. He went on to say that they currently had no alternates.

Chairman Gannuscio asked Mr. Szczesny if that evening's meeting was going to be his last meeting with the Commission. Mr. Szczesny replied that that was correct. He went on to say that Ms. Rodriguez was coming back to work the following week. Mr. Gannuscio commended Mr. Szczesny for all of the work that he had done behind the scenes regarding Babylon as well as everything that he had done on a daily basis filling in for Ms. Rodriguez. He went on to say that he wished that there was some way to keep both Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Szczesny on staff. Mr. Gannuscio then thanked Mr. Szczesny and wished him luck in the future.

Chairman Gannuscio moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Zimnoch seconded the motion. All were in favor. The vote was 5 – 0, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Ferrari
Recording Secretary

THIS IS A DRAFT

Please check the following month's meeting minutes for official approval of these minutes and any amendments or corrections that were made.