

SELECTBOARD PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS
December 29, 2014

PRESENT:

Selectboard : Linda Collins, Chair, Tim Green, Wayne Hurtubise

Staff: Laura Ovitt, Administrative Assistant

Planning Commission: Rowena Brown, John Libbey, Sherry Paquette, Mary Robinson

Residents: Leah Britch, Karen Cangelosi, Eric Collins, Tina Lamos, Evan Mercy, Joey Randall, Mike Smith, Josh Waterhouse, Mark Waterhouse, Linda Whitney

Linda Collins called the hearing to order at 7:00 PM. Copies of the proposed changes developed after the planning commission's hearing were distributed. Linda explained that underlined sections are additions. Sections that are crossed out were removed. In the following, sections underlined are added, sections in parenthesis are removed.

Proposed amendment to Table 3.2 'Allowed Uses by Zoning Districts' was discussed. Sherry Paquette explained the amendment is intended to try to eliminate random approval for multi-family units.

Proposed amendments and additions to Section 4.8 'Signs' were discussed. Josh Waterhouse questioned whether 'auction' signs are allowed, and was told that they are.

Proposed amendments to Section 4.11 'Fences' were discussed. The group generally expressed disfavor with the height limit of 3 ½ feet.

Proposed addition of Section 4.12 'Landscaping' was discussed. Tina Lamos question why the addition is proposed. John Libbey explained landscaping is in the current bylaws but is not well-defined. He said the town attorney said they need to add a definitive length of grass. Evan Mercy commented the 6" limit should be changed to something that will be healthy for the lawn.

Proposed addition of Section 4.13 "Retail Outdoor Displays" was discussed. The group agreed farm produce should be added back in. Mark Waterhouse commented the section is aimed at one person, and that the planning commission is driving commercial entities away. He has heard complaints about the zoning administrator. There is no definition for 'retail' in the current bylaws.

John Libbey explained the changes were generated as a result of a survey conducted at town meeting and by complaints heard by the zoning administrator. Karen Cangelosi said violations are addressed.

Linda Whitney said people need to talk to their neighbors vs. running to zoning.

Evan Mercy said zoning is probably a necessary evil, but rules should be made to attract business instead of driving it away.

The public hearing adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Laura Ovitt, Administrative Assistant