



TOWN OF WILLISTON
Planning Commission Minutes
March 4, 2014 - 7:00 P.M.

Williston Planning Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jake Mathon, Kevin Batson, Michael Alvanos, Paul Laska, Meghan Cope, Shannon Hiltner, Tom Walsh, Planning Commission Members; Ken Belliveau and Matt Boulanger planning staff,

1) CALL TO ORDER

Jake Mathon called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

2) CHANGES TO THE BYLAW RELATED TO SIGNS

Ken Belliveau and Matt Boulanger introduced the topic and distributed a set of possible edits to the WDB 25. The group discussed sign enforcement and other challenges related to the administration of WDB 25.

The group discussed temporary agricultural signs. Kevin Batson asked about expanding the draft language to include farmer's markets in other zones. Boulanger explained that the current farmers market in town is in the TCZD and actually has a condition of approval prohibiting it from having any off-site signs. Meghan Cope asked if the proposed changes could address the installation and removal of signs or if the signs could be up year-round. Boulanger said that as written, such signs could be up year-round.

The group discussed how the total number of signs per business could be limited. Ken Belliveau said that too many signs in high-visibility locations could also lead to visual clutter and difficulties with enforcement.

Kevin Batson said that he would like off-site signs for agriculture limited to advertising products that are currently available. Paul Laska if people had run into problems with signs hanging around advertising products that are no longer available. The consensus of the group was to limit off-site agricultural advertising to "currently available products."

Boulanger said that as written, the draft would allow the placement of agricultural signs off-site for agricultural businesses in the RZD and the ARZD. The group discussed whether these signs could be temporary or permanent, their potential allowed maximum size, and how the density of such signs might be controlled.

Meghan Cope said that her concern was that signs could be permanently mounted. Shannon Hiltner said that she felt there was a certain charm in the rustic nature of handmade off-site agricultural signs.

The consensus of the group was that off-site signs for agricultural uses located in the ARZD and RZD should be allowed, at a maximum of one sign per parcel of land, with a maximum allowed size of six square feet (double sided), and with a restriction that signs must not be permanently attached to the ground and must only be used to advertise currently available products. The group directed Boulanger to continue to modify the draft changes to achieve these goals.

The group discussed other possible changes to the Bylaw. There was consensus to draft changes that would prohibit the use of internally-illuminated signs after a date certain in the future.

Boulanger outlined other potential changes to the structure and order of the chapter that would make it easier for applicants to read and the staff to administer. Boulanger said that he would continue to edit the draft chapter as directed by the commission.

3) **CHANGES TO THE BYLAW RELATED TO OUTDOOR LIGHTING**

Outdoor lighting was not discussed at this meeting.

4) **Minutes of the February 18, 2014 meeting:**

Motion by Meghan Cope seconded by Shannon Hiltner to approve with minor corrections approved by 7-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.