

Planning and Zoning Board

Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2009

7:00 p.m.

The Blowing Rock Planning and Zoning Board met on Thursday, February 19, 2009 for their regular scheduled meeting. Chairman West called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Debbie di Santi, Nelda Miller, Web Alexander and Sue Sweeting. Staff members present were Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, and Administrative Assistant Sherrie Pitts.

Mr. Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Miller. All members were in favor of the motion.

Items of Business

Update Banners in the Park

Mr. Rothrock recommended to the board to put a hold on park banners until details were finalized on the Downtown Streetscape Plan. There was some discussion on banners. The Board had no other questions or comments on park banners.

Grand Opening Banners

Mr. Rothrock discussed grand opening banners. Included in the board packet was draft ordinance language to amend the sign ordinance and some examples of design options for the banners.

Ms. Sweeting asked if the number of lines should be limited and if the message should be limited on the banner. Mr. Rothrock recommended restricting the overall size of the banner which would automatically restrict the text size. Ms. Di Santi remarked that it was for grand openings, they should only limit the banner size.

Ms. Sweeting questioned if a business applied for a permit for a banner would it go through an approval process. Mr. Rothrock stated that it would have to be approved.

Chairman West asked if a business relocated would it be considered a new business and could they have a grand opening. Chairman West stated that there should be a definition for businesses, new and relocating. Mr. Rothrock said that if a business relocated they should be allowed a grand opening.

Ms. Sweeting made a motion to approve grand opening banners as presented. Mr. Alexander seconded the motion. All members were in favor of the motion.

Other Business

Land Use Code Update

Mr. Rothrock reported that Mr. Egan was moving forward through the code book. There was discussion on conditional zoning and looking at various permitting options. He and Mr. Egan also discussed zoning standards for the central area of town which would include Main Street from Hwy 221 south to Chestnut Dr. Staff and Mr. Egan discussed relaxing standards outside the Town Center but within the remaining Central Business District.

Mr. Rothrock told the board that the loading zone surveys have been mailed and replies were starting to come in with a variety of answers to the questions.

Chairman West asked about the workshop for the Planning Board and Town Council. Mr. Rothrock commented that it would be after March but there is not a definite date set.

With no other comments or questions the Planning Board adjourned.

Adjourn

*Mr. Alexander made a motion to adjourn. Ms. di Santi seconded the motion. **All members were in favor of the motion.***

With no further business the Planning Board adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Jim West, Chairman

Sherrie Pitts, Administrative Assistant