

Westmoreland Planning Board
July 9, 2013
Approved minutes

❖ **Call to Order, Seating Members**

Present: Lauren Bressett, Dawn Lincoln, Bruce Smith, Steve Houle, June Hammond, Jim Starkey
Excused: Laurie Burt, Steve Houle seated for Laurie Burt
6:40 TJ Kelly arrived, David Hansel absent
Lauren Bressett called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

❖ **Review of Minutes:**

Jim Starkey made a motion to accept the minutes as read, June Hammond second, all voted accept.

❖ **Old Business**

Board members reviewed a copy of a letter sent to the Ferguson's from the Selectman, Dated June 19, 2013.

Lauren Bressett will send the 155e file to Alison Fissette to make copies for members, if any members would like a paper copy of this let Alison know.

❖ **New Business**

Lauren Bressett stated, what we do not define in our ordinance would then fall under the State of NH RSA's. Bruce Smith reiterated his feelings of the planning board should not be enforcement of ordinances, that should be up to the Selectman and if someone brings a violation to the board's attention, the board should suggest they go to the Selectman. The board's role would be to interpret the ordinances.

Board members reviewed current sign ordinances of the town and also surrounding towns for ideas with updating current ordinance.

Section 431

- Add a. Banners
 b. Construction sign
 c. Temporary sign

And by special exception

Section 433

- Add a. 8 sq ft maximum
 b. total sq ft not to exceed 32 sq ft

Section 434

Any single sign not larger than 32 sq ft
Total of all signs not to exceed 56 sq ft.

Board members reviewed the current ordinance and gave suggestions on what may need to be changed in this section; lighted signs need to be addressed, flashing signs, larger signs. Lauren

suggested board members also review section 437 for next meeting. Current draft is attached to these minutes. This is still a work in progress.

❖ **Select Board Update**

June Hammond stated that the selectman had not heard from the Fergusons in regards to the letter that had been sent to them. Also the Selectmen have been very busy with all the flooding in town.

- ❖ **Letters** Salena Gallen sent a letter to the Planning Board to inform the board that she will no longer be able to be on the Master Plan update committee.

Dawn Lincoln made a motion to adjourn Jim Starkey second, motion passed, Jim Starkey abstained.
Meeting adjourn at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted
Alison Fissette
Planning Board Secretary

Sign Ordinance Update Draft

KEY straight words are existing ordinances, cross out is original we propose dropping, underline is additions we propose, underline italics possible other items.

Terms

Sign: Any device, structure, building or part thereof, for visual communication that is used for the purpose of bringing the subject thereof to the attention of the public.

Sign, Advertising or Billboard: Sign which directs attention to a business, industry, profession, service, commodity or entertainment conducted, sold or offered elsewhere than upon the same lot.

Sign, Business: Sign which directs attention to a business, industry, profession, service, commodity, or entertainment sold or offered upon the same lot on which it is displayed, including real estate signs.

Sign, Banner: A temporary sign of lightweight material (paper, plastic, or fabric) hung either with or without frames.

Sign, construction - a temporary sign indicating work currently being done or a current condition that applies such as a real estate, roofing, or carpenter's sign.

Sign, directory: A sign that indicates the name of the location as well as a listing of all businesses/entities located on the site.

Sign, flag: A lightweight material carrying a design or words designed to fly or hang from a pole.

SECTION 431 Signs

No signs or billboards shall be permitted in any district except as specifically permitted herein as follows:

- A. An open flag or banner may be displayed during business hours.

- B. Construction signs not to exceed 6 square feet with the name and contact information of the contractor will be allowed during the active construction period.
- C. A temporary sign pertaining to the lease, sale or use of the lot or building on which it is placed will be allowed.
- D. Signage not covered below or not in compliance may be allowed by special exception.

SECTION 432 Advertising Billboards

Advertising billboards shall not be permitted in any Residential or Village Center Districts.

SECTION 433 Signs in Residential Districts

The following signs are permitted when located on the immediate property.

- A. No signs shall be larger than 8 square feet.
- B. All permitted non-residential uses shall be allowed to erect and maintain a single free-standing sign and any number of additional signs provided that the combined area of all signs does not exceed 32 square feet for all uses.
- C. Signs shall not exceed 15 feet from ground level.
- ~~A. 1 professional or home occupation sign, not exceeding 4 square feet.~~
- ~~B. 1 temporary sign, not exceeding 6 square feet.~~
- ~~C. Signs identifying any non-residential building or use permitted in residential districts, not exceeding a total of 20 square feet.~~
- ~~D. Directional or information sign, not exceeding 4 square feet.~~
- ~~E. Signs necessary for public safety or welfare.~~

SECTION 434 Signs in Commercial/Industrial Districts

The following signs are permitted when located on the immediate property:

- A. When one business exists:
 - ~~One directory sign not larger than 10 square feet.~~
 - 1. One sign not larger than 32 square feet.
 - 2. Additional signage pertaining to permitted uses located on or immediately adjacent to the building where the use occurs provided that the combined area of all signs does not exceed 56 square feet.
- B. When more than one business exists on a property:
 - 1. One directory sign not larger than 40 square feet listing the name of each business on site.
 - 2. One sign per business not larger than 12 sq feet located on or immediately adjacent to each business.
 - 3. One additional banner sign not larger than 12 square feet located on or immediately adjacent to each business.

SECTION 435 Computation of Permissible Sign Area

When computing the total permissible sign area for any use:

- A. Existing signs shall be included.
- B. The total area of all signs shall not exceed the requirements as set forth in this Ordinance.
- C. Signs, consisting of free standing letters, numerals or other devices shall include any intervening spaces between them.
- D. Only the larger face area of double-faced or v-type sign shall be used.
- E. Back-to-back signs may be counted as one sign.
- F. Open flags are not counted in the computation of permissible sign area.

SECTION 436 Traffic Hazard, Safety and Obstructions

Every sign shall be designed and located in such a manner as to:

- A. Not impair public safety.

- B. Not restrict clear vision between a sidewalk and street.
- C. Not be confused with any traffic sign or signal.
- D. Not prevent free access to any door, window, or fire escape.

SECTION 437 Illuminated and Flashing Signs

- A. A steady light may illuminate signs, provided that such lighting will not illuminate or reflect onto other properties or onto a public road.
- B. Flashing, oscillating, ~~and~~ revolving, neon or other tubular gas signs shall not be permitted, unless necessary for public safety or welfare.