



# BELLINGHAM PLANNING BOARD

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## Meeting Minutes March 26, 2015

MEETING LOCATION: ARCAND MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL CENTER

### **Present at the Meeting**

Patricia M. Murphy (PMM), Chairman  
Brian T. Salisbury (BTS), Vice Chairman  
Peter C. Pappas (PCP), Secretary  
William F. O'Connell Jr. (WFO), Member - absent  
Glenn C. Wojcik (GCW), Member  
Nikyda Resto (NR), Alternate

### **Other Officials:**

Stacey J. Wetstein (SJW), Town Planner  
Jean Keyes (JK), Planning Board Coordinator

PMM opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### **7:00 p.m. Discussion of Sign Bylaw with Sign Committee and Town Administrator**

Sign Bylaw Committee members present: Chairman, Jerry Mayhew also of the Board of Selectmen and Jim Dunlea also of the Zoning Board.

Mr. Mayhew explained that he and Mr. Dunlea have presented an updated sign bylaw to the Board. He believes that the sign bylaw committee has made good progress and this updated bylaw is one that the Planning Board can work with. The sign bylaw committee has reserved a placeholder on the May Town Warrant but updates can be made because the bylaw wording is not yet in the warrant.

SJW explained that according to Mass General Law, all changes or additions to the Town's bylaws must be approved by the Planning Board. The Board has to send certified abutter notices to abutting towns and hold a public hearing. No bylaw changes or updates can go to Town Meeting without the Board holding a public hearing. The public hearing must be advertised 14 and 7 days in advance of the hearing and the abutter notices must be sent out no later than 14 days in advance of the hearing. Since Town Meeting is May 27<sup>th</sup>, this gives the Board very little time to review this bylaw. SJW further explained that the public hearing for the sign bylaw will not take one meeting as the Board has not had much time to review the revisions. In the past, the Board has held several public discussions before opening a public hearing to give the public ample time to review the proposed changes. In this case, there has been no public discussion and the first time the public will see these changes is during the public hearing.

Jim Dunlea then explained that he drafted a noise bylaw that he has put on the Warrant is in text form so the Board just has to review it. He then gave a copy of the Noise Bylaw draft to the Board. SJW explained to Mr. Dunlea that the Board has to hold a public hearing for changes to the noise bylaw and has to review the changes and approve them. Town Meeting is not the forum to have changes made and Mr. Dunlea should have consulted with the Board while he was preparing the changes so that the Board could have been apprised of and reviewed the changes.

Lengthy discussion was held between Mr. Dunlea, Mr. Mayhew, the Board and SJW concerning the changes. A review of all the changes was not completed and the discussion will be taken up again at the

April 9, 2015 Planning Board meeting. BTS and Mr. Dunlea explained that the proposed changes were made with the thought that they were appropriate for the town and to prohibit or regulate those signs that detract from the character of the town. SJW and the Board suggested improvements and changes to the text including having a narrative section at the beginning. SJW and PMM expressed their concern that this bylaw review is being rushed and the Board wants to take their time to fully introduce it to the public so that all are comfortable with the changes before Town Meeting.

SJW strongly suggested that Mr. Dunlea add more definitions. For example, SJW wants to see in writing how a variable message sign is defined and how an electronic message board is defined. SJW referred Mr. Dunlea to the bylaws of other towns to see how terms are defined. The Board agreed that if the bylaw is prohibiting something the bylaw should define it.

**General Business:****Old Business:****PCP: Motion to sign the March 12, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

GCW: Second.

Discussion: correction on page 2

Vote: 4-0. Motion Carried. (PMM, BTS, GCW, PCP)

**PCP: Motion to sign the March 12, 2015 Executive Session Meeting Minutes**

GCW: Second.

Discussion: None.

Vote: 4-0. Motion Carried. (PMM, BTS, GCW, PCP)

**BTS: Motion to sign the Vouchers/Payroll**

GCW: Second.

Discussion: SJW explained the vouchers payroll.

Vote: 4-0. Motion Carried. (PMM, BTS, GCW, PCP)

**New Business (81-P)****GCW: Motion to adjourn.**

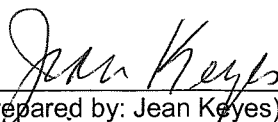
BTS: Second.

Discussion:

Vote: 4-0. Motion Carried. (PMM, BTS, GCW, PCP)

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes Accepted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

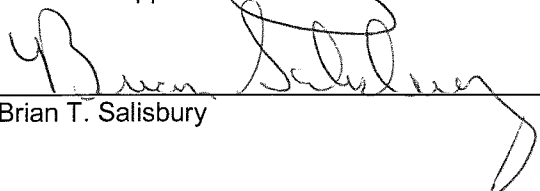
  
(Prepared by: Jean Keyes)

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Patricia M. Murphy

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Glenn C. Wojcik

  
Peter C. Pappas

  
William F. O'Connell Jr.

  
Brian T. Salisbury