

MINUTES
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, September 28, 2014 – 8 a.m.
Conference Room A

Present: Councilor Matt Robinson, Chair; Councilor Sherrie Benner; Councilor Ben Hartwell
(arrived at 8:40 a.m.)

Also Present: Town Manager David Cole; Zoning Administrator David Galbraith; Town Planner Tom Poirier

1. Approval of August 18, 2014 Committee Meeting minutes.

A motion was MADE by Councilor Benner, SECONDED by Councilor Robinson, and VOTED to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2014 Committee meeting as distributed. 2 yeas (Hartwell absent).

2. Current Business

- A. Discuss developing amendments to Chapter II, Section III, Signs, of the Land Use and Development Code to allow for A-Frame or Sandwich board signs in Gorham Village and also directional signs for Farm stands for the Council to consider (referred by Town Council at July 1, 2014 meeting).

The Committee reviewed and discussed a memo prepared by the Zoning Administrator that included a draft amendment to the Land Use and Development Code to allow sandwich board signs within the Village. The draft amendment would allow freestanding signs within the Village and private property that meet the definition of a sandwich board subject to several standards. As requested at the August 18, 2014, Ordinance Committee meeting, staff researched the width of sidewalks within the Village and found that those sidewalks, including curbs, ranged from approximately 4.5 feet to 9 feet wide. It was noted that The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires sidewalks to have a minimum of 36" clearance so any ordinance amendment will need to provide for adequate pedestrian passage.

The Committee discussed allowing sandwich boards in the Village for one year to see how it worked. It was discussed that the property owner would apply for the sign. After discussion, a motion was MADE by Councilor Benner, SECONDED by Councilor Hartwell, and VOTED that the Committee recommend to the Town Council an amendment to the Land Use and Development Code to allow sandwich board signs within the Village and on private property with a sunset stipulation of 18 months at which time the Council will determine whether to continue to allow sandwich boards or not. 3 yeas.

Committee recommended that the amendment include the right of the Town Council to charge a fee for the permit of the sign.

The Committee asked staff to do what its best to get this amendment on the October Council meeting.

- B. Review the Narragansett Development District to see if additional permitted uses or changes could be made to encourage more development with the District and recommend appropriate changes to the Land Use and Development Code for the Town Council to consider (referred by Town Council at July 1, 2014 meeting).

The Town Manager reported that the Council asked the Committee to review the Narragansett Development District and recommend any amendments to improve and encourage development.

Staff provided background on current permitted uses in the District. It was noted that the Comprehensive Plan could impact any changes recommended by the Committee and that after the November election, there could be a different composition to the Committee. It was agreed that Councilor Robinson will report to the Town Council about the Committee's discussion and ask the Council for more guidance or whether discussion on this item should continue at Council level.

3. Other business.

There was no other business.

4. Schedule next meeting.

The Committee did not schedule the next meeting due to the November election and anticipated possible change in the composition of the Committee.

5. Adjournment.

There being no further discussion, a motion was MADE by Councilor Benner, SECONDED by Councilor Hartwell, and VOTED to adjourn. Unanimous vote. Motion to Adjourn: 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Sheldon, Ass't to the TM/HR Director