

**SEEKONK PLANNING BOARD  
Public Hearing & Regular Meeting**

**MINUTES  
June 14, 2011**

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Present: Ch. Abelson, M. Bourque, S. Foulkes, R. Bennett, R. Horsman  
J. Hansen, Town Planner

Late: L. Dunn (7:30PM)

Absent: T. Clancy (without cause)

7:00 pm Ch. Abelson called the meeting to order.

**Zoning Bylaw Amendment: Sign Bylaw-Sections 12.1 –Purpose, 12.2 – Definitions, & 12.7 -  
Temporary**

Ch. Abelson read the order of business.

Introduction of Town Planner and Board Members.

**M. Bourque made a motion to wave the reading of the legal notice seconded by R. Horsman and so voted unanimously.**

**VOTE: (5-0) Motion passes**

Mary McNeil Building Inspector gave the presentation of exhibits.

Carol Bragg 44 Hope St. Special promotion signs need to be defined.

Bev Hart 26 Melanie St. Churches should not have to pay a fee to have signs advertising church activities.

No other questions or comments from audience or board members

**M. Bourque made a motion to adjourn the public hearing seconded by R. Bennett and so voted unanimously.**

**VOTE: (5-0) Motion passes**

Discussion by board

M. Bourque It seems since we have not had a sign bylaw or chose not to enforce it many signs, banners and flags have gone up. I feel the town needs some type of guidance. The

committee has done a good job researching this and coming up with something we can work off of.

**R. Bennett made a motion that the planning board endorse, *Article 22*, at town meeting, seconded by M. Bourque and so voted: Aye: Ch. Abelson, M. Bourque, R. Bennett. Nay: S. Foulkes. Abstain: R. Horsman**

**Vote: (3-1-1) Motion passes**

**M. Bourque made a motion that the planning board endorse, *Article 23*, at town meeting seconded by R. Bennett**

Discussion:

S. Foulkes I feel the town does not need it.

R. Horsman In agreement, Article 23, far too reaching in its content.

M. Bourque Do you have problems with the signs or the fees?

R. Horsman Fee not an issue.

Ch. Abelson Do not have a problem with a small sandwich board signs in front of a business, just apprehensive about the businesses that abuse it by putting up multiple signs in windows and along the road.

L. Dunn Article as it is written is not business friendly.

**and so voted: Aye: Ch. Abelson, M. Bourque. Nay: S. Foulkes, R. Horsman, L. Dunn. Abstain: R. Bennett**

**Vote: (2-3-1) Motion fails**

**R. Horsman made a motion to oppose this at town meeting**

Discussion

M. McNeil A *no* vote at town meeting means it will go back to what we had and the process would have to start over again.

J. Hansen It can't be brought back to town meeting for 2 years if voted down and if planning board votes not to recommend.

Ch. Abelson Only with significant changes can it be brought back.

**R. Horsman withdraws his motion**

R. Horsman I would rather have the old law be vacated and hand this back to the committee that wrote this. Old one would not be in effect if you amend it. Rather let people put up signs than not.

**R. Horsman made a motion to reconsider the motion to recommend passage of bylaw, seconded by M. Bourque and so voted: Aye: Ch. Abelson, M. Bourque, R. Horsman, R. Bennett. Nay: S. Foulkes. Abstain: L. Dunn**

**VOTE: (4-1-1) Motion passes**

**R. Horsman made a motion that the planning board endorse, *Article 23*, at town meeting seconded by M. Bourque and so voted: Aye: Ch. Abelson, M. Bourque, R. Horsman, R. Bennett. Nay: S. Foulkes, L. Dunn**

**VOTE: (4-2) Motion passes**

**Discussion: Assisted Living Facility Bylaw**

J. Hansen      Last meeting R. Horsman proposed an amendment to the bylaw to be brought up on town meeting floor to include a buffer of 6 foot high evergreens around perimeter of all sites.

S. Foulkes      I am concerned, will this be definitive enough?

R. Horsman    It is definitive as far as I am concerned.

**M. Bourque made a motion that the planning board recommend adding “In addition to the minimum 10 foot landscaped buffer around the perimeter of all sites, as required in the Site Plan Review section, the Planning Board may require a tight evergreen landscaped buffer, not less than 6’ high at the time of planting, around the perimeter of all sites to shield abutting residential properties if, at the Board’s discretion, such a buffer is deemed necessary.” to the Assisted Living Facility Bylaw at the end of special permit requirement # 6.**

**Seconded by L. Dunn and so voted by: Ch. Abelson, M. Bourque, R. Bennett, R. Horsman, L. Dunn, S. Foulkes.**

**VOTE: (6-0) Motion passes**

M. Bourque    Are you going to put the amendment language in the handout so people can read while at the town meeting?

J. Hansen      I will put all the documents together as a handout for town meeting.

**Approval of minutes**

**M. Bourque made a motion to approve minutes from May 24, 2011, with amendments indicated, seconded by R. Horsman and so voted by: Ch. Abelson, L. Dunn, R. Horsman, R. Bennett, S. Foulkes.**

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**Abstain: M. Bourque (reason: did not attend meeting)**

**VOTE: ( 5-0-1) Motion passes**

**Adjournment:**

**R. Horsman made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by M. Bourque and so voted unanimously by: Ch. Abelson, S. Foulkes, L. Dunn, R. Horsman, R. Bennett, M. Bourque**

**VOTE: (6-0 ) Motion passes**

The meeting adjourned at 9PM

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Florice Craig, Secretary