

**STURBRIDGE PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES OF
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012**

Ms. Gibson-Quigley called the regular meeting of the Planning Board to order at 6:30 PM. On a roll call by Ms. Dumas the following members were present:

Present: Charlie Blanchard
Russell Chamberland
James Cunniff
Penny Dumas
Heather Hart
Susan Waters
Sandra Gibson-Quigley, Chair

Also Present: Jean M. Bubon, Town Planner
Diane Trapasso, Administrative Assistant

Ms. Gibson-Quigley opened the meeting and read the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Made by Mr. Blanchard to accept the amended minutes of October 23, 2012.
2nd: Ms. Waters
Discussion: None
Vote: 7 – 0

ANR

None

PUBLIC FORUM – ON PROPOSED SIGN BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

Ms. Gibson-Quigley stated that this not a public hearing, it is an opportunity for public comment. We welcome your input and want to hear from business owners about your needs regarding signage and we also want to hear from residents about the impact signage in the community has on your day- to- day experience as shoppers and residents.

Ms. Bubon made the presentation. Ms. Bubon stated that the Board wants to hear from the businesses. The Board is going to pose a series of questions to help us gain an understanding of different viewpoints with regards to signs. The Board is then going to take that information and create a draft bylaw that provides for balance. A Public Hearing will then be

held by the Planning Board on the proposed changes and that proposal will eventually go to Town Meeting for approval or disapproval.

The public had the following comments and concerns:

- Enforcement should be equal for all
- Banners for special events and grand openings
- Temporary signs - necessary to get the message out to consumers – the A-frame signs that are out now are not working (cause clutter and are ugly)
- Trade logos need to be advertised and part of signage
- Signs could be bigger
- Promotional signs
- Multi-tenants signs – flexible on colors

The Board agreed that this was a good start and will take all these suggestions into account when writing up the draft bylaw.

TOW PLANNER UPDATE

Ms. Bubon stated that a citizens petition for a solar bylaw was submitted to the BOS to be placed on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting.

Once the BOS sends the petition back, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing for discussion and comments.

Ms. Bubon stated that a final date for the Special Town Meeting has not been set, the two dates are January 7th or 14th, 2013. Depending on the date will depend on when the Planning Board will hold the Public Meeting.

Ms. Gibson-Quigley stated that residents need to understand that the Planning Board cannot make any comments on these solar projects because no application has been filed. The proponents have not presented their proposals to the Planning Board.

Ms. Gibson-Quigley also stated that usually the Planning Board does zoning bylaw amendments at the Annual Town Meeting and devotes a lot of time preparing and discussing the amendment.

Ms. Bubon stated that she has reviewed the petition and will have comments and thoughts for the Board to review.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

RFP for the Commercial Tourist District: proposals received; the Planning Board will hold interviews on December 11, 2012.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting date is December 11, 2012

On a motion made by Mr. Chamberland and seconded by Mr. Blanchard, and voted 7 – 0, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.