

Minutes Of Regular Meeting
Town Of Saugus Sign By-Law Committee
3/13/02
6:00 P.M.

Committee Members In Attendance:

Peter A. Rossetti, Jr. Chairperson

Dennis R. Robitaille, Clerk

Ellen Burns

Edward L. Carlson

Thomas S. Gannon

Donald Wong

Absent: (Albert DiNardo)

Others Present: Town Meeting Member, Nora Shaughnessy.

To the best of my recollection and interpretation the following events occurred: (Recorded by Committee Clerk, Dennis Robitaille.) Meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Chairperson, Peter Rossetti. The minutes of the previous meeting held 2/25/02 were read and accepted.

Discussion centered on political signs and existing non-conforming signs. Ellen Burns presented the Committee with a proposed political sign by-law. Committee Members discussed the proposals and made minor changes. Dennis Robitaille questioned the legality of limiting the number of signs. Some elections could have several different ballot questions and political candidates such as for Selectmen, people would be prohibited from displaying a sign for an issue or candidate, if they supported more than two candidates or issues. Nora Shaughnessy gave the example of a household where different family members had different political views. Dennis did consider it a good idea to limit a candidate or ballot question to only one sign per lot. Dennis questioned whether there have been complaints from people regarding too many signs at a property. Peter stated there have been such complaints. Committee Members suggested that the number of signs could be debated at Town Meeting. A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept the revised proposal as follows:

POLITICAL SIGNS: Temporary signs pertaining to a candidate or ballot question appearing on the ballot of an election duly called by the Town, State or Federal Government shall be allowed in all zoning districts without a sign permit, with the following requirements:

- (a.) Shall only be permitted on private property, with the property owner's permission.
- (b.) Shall not exceed six square feet in area, with a limit of two feet by three feet in length or width and no more than two signs per lot.
- (c.) Free standing signs shall not be higher at the top than five feet above the ground level.
- (d.) Shall be stationary and not directly illuminated.
- (e.) Shall be erected no earlier than 30 days prior to the date of the election and shall be removed

within seven days after the election.

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Non conforming existing signs were discussed. Peter brought up the sign issue at Super Stop & Shop. He stated the biggest concern with the 133% provision (7.5.) (1.) (b.1.) was with who determines the sign value, specifically, he questioned who exactly is an accredited insurance appraiser. Peter presented the Committee Members with photos showing existing business signs in Clifftondale Square. He explained that it would be impossible for most businesses to comply with the existing Sign By-Laws, mainly due to the setback requirement.

Ellen Burns made a motion to request an opinion of Town Counsel about the following:

"A reading of the Saugus Zoning By-Law Sec 7.5, sub-section 1 (b) (3) would seem to mean that **any** non-conforming sign now in existence anywhere in town becomes **illegal** instantly if it "advertisers or promotes the sale of goods, products or services not sold, provided or manufactured upon the same premises," **at any time later**, and if the foregoing is true, according to sub-section 1(b) (5), such a sign must be "removed within 120 days of the date on which the sign first becomes subject" to the foregoing statement in sib-section 1 (b) (3)."

Ellen stated we needed this opinion before April 2. Peter stated he would be seeing Town Counsel shortly.

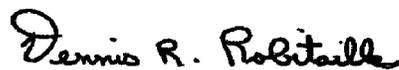
Peter mentioned that a legal clause will need to be placed with the proposed By-Law Articles when placed on the Town Warrant, so in case any one or more provisions contained in the proposed By-Laws are held invalid, illegal or unenforceable, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not effect any other provision of the proposed By-Laws, and that the proposed By-Laws shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision had not been contained within.

Next meeting was set for 4/1/02 at 6:00 P.M.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Clerk, Dennis R. Robitaille



Chairperson, Peter A. Rossetti