

Minutes Of Regular Meeting --- 11/13/01  
Town Of Saugus --- Sign By-Law Committee

Committee Members In Attendance:

Peter A. Rossetti, Jr. Chairperson

Dennis R. Robitaille, Clerk

Ellen Burns

Edward L. Carlson

Albert J. DiNardo

Thomas S. Gannon

Donald Wong

Others Present: Rick DeSanctis.

To the best of my recollection and interpretation the following events occurred: (Recorded by Committee Clerk, Dennis Robitaille.)

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairperson, Peter Rossetti.

Peter asked each member to report on what they had learned about the particular by-law section they volunteer to study further.

Ellen Burns learned that Danvers & Peabody charge \$10 for copies of their by-laws, however, a few towns including Nahant make their by-laws available on the internet. Ellen also raised her concern about the lack of restrictions pertaining to political signs, such as size and time length of their use. She cited some very large political signs in Lynn. Ellen reminded committee members that "what is said" on a political sign can not be controlled.

Tom Gannon stressed that the definition of a sign must be better defined and that the current definition prohibits businesses from enhancing the appearance of the outside area of their buildings. A Cliftdale travel agency was used as an example, because the Sign Officer ordered the removal of a flower box from the outside front area of the business. Tom suggested that along with the paying of fees to the town for opening a business, a new business owner should get a copy of the Zoning By-Laws. He also suggested that committee members, for the next meeting, come up with their own idea or definition of what constitutes a sign.

Dennis Robitaille, after suggesting changes to Section 7.5 Paragraph 1 (a), asked committee members whether or not the cost to repair, alter or rebuild a sign was a relevant issue pertaining to pre-existing non conforming signs. All members agreed that elimination of this paragraph made sense. Dennis stated that he would check with the Sign Officer to obtain his opinion of that paragraph and the need for it. Ellen also suggested that the pre existing non-conforming restrictions also include a prohibition on relocation of a sign.

Donald Wong brought up the issue of national flags and how some businesses have numerous flags on their property, other committee members stated that national flags were exempt from the sign by-laws. Regarding other types of flags, Don suggested that limits be placed on the size and number of flags a business can have. Don and Ellen also brought up the issue of vehicle advertising and the difficulty some businesses have to advertise "legally" because of their locations.

Al DiNardo called the flag issue a "daunting" issue. He said Nahant had a strict sign by-law pertaining to banners, including a 60 day limit.

Ed Carlson stated he would look up on the internet the sign by-laws of at least one of the neighboring towns. He suggested that maybe banners should be tied to the same requirements as temporary signs. Ed said the committee should focus on what is allowed now under the sign by-laws and what should be allowed under any new proposed by-laws.

Guest, Rick DeSanctis suggested that there should be separate categories for different parts of the town, such as Route One. Committee members indicated to him that there are distinctions in the by-laws now between residential and business zoned properties.

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted as presented.

Members agreed to meet again on December 10, 2001 at 6:00 P.M..

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Clerk, Dennis R. Robitaille 

Chairperson, Peter A. Rossetti \_\_\_\_\_