

Minutes Of Regular Meeting
Town Of Saugus Sign By-Law Committee
12/10/01
6:00 P.M.

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:

Joel Beck, Saugus Advertiser reporter.

Fred Varone, Saugus Building Inspector / Sign Officer.

Anthony Giudice, Saugus Code Enforcement Officer

Kevin Nigro, Saugus Director of Operations.

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. The minutes of the previous meeting held 11/13/01 were accepted.

Committee members were given the opportunity to ask the Sign Officer, Fred Varone, questions. Fred distributed copies of sections from the MA Building Code, the Saugus Zoning By-Laws, the International Building Code and the BOCA National Building Code, which pertained to the definitions of a sign. Fred talked a little about how signs can get out of hand if zoning by-laws are not enforced and gave the example of Squire Road in Revere. He expressed his feeling that the existing Sign By-Law was good and did not want to see it dismembered.

Fred did speak in favor of allowing "grand opening" signs, as long as they did not interfere with pedestrian traffic. Kevin Nigro mentioned that grand opening signs can get out of hand. Fred suggested that the Committee could work on setting perimeters for grand opening signs, such as setting time limits.

The Sign Officer also talked about how some larger businesses seemed to incorporate paying fines for sign violations as part of their operating expense. Kevin Nigro explained that the amount of "fine" money assessed was regulated by state law. Mr. Varone suggested the Committee might want to look at a couple of issues including vehicle signs and strip mall signs.

The use of a business's vehicle to display advertisement as well as the use of trucks from other companies that are actually billboards, were discussed. The issue of banners was brought up and Fred explained that so far only non-profit organizations have gotten approval from the Selectmen and that the DPW installs the banners. It was also explained that awnings become signs when advertisement is placed on them.

Reader boards that are used at drive up windows were discussed briefly and it was unclear whether they fall under the definition of a sign or regulation of sign by-laws.

At the conclusion of the meeting Peter Rossetti, summarized / itemized the issues that the Committee should focus on, these included, banners, grand opening signs, reconstruction of existing non-conforming signs, vehicles used for advertisement, strip mall signs, and seasonal flags & "open" flags

Next meeting was set for 1/7/02 at 6:00 P.M.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 P.M.

Clerk, Dennis R. Robitaille *Dennis R. Robitaille*

Chairperson, Peter A. Rossetti _____