

Town of Conklin Zoning Board of Appeals – May 2, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: William Northwood, Chairman; Art Boyle, Elizabeth Einstein
Paul Schofield, Hal Cole, Tom Kelly, Norm Pritchard

ABSENT: Paul Schofield

ATTORNEY: Nathan Vanwhy,

ALSO

PRESENT: Mary Plonski, Secretary
Willie Platt, Town Board Liaison
Nick Vascello, Code Enforcement Officer

VISITORS: Bill Dumian

7:00 P.M. Chairman Northwood called the meeting to order

Agenda Item #1 Chairman Northwood called the meeting to order. It was explained that this was not an official meeting but that they were asked to get together to continue the discussion on signage and any changes that may need to be recommended.

Chairman Northwood stated that it was suggested at the last meeting that the board take a few minutes to review the conversations from the last meeting to bring everyone up to speed on what was discussed. Mary provided a catalog that was sent to the Town Hall that had descriptions of the various types of banners and flags. A copy of a current Sign Permit Application was also handed out.

Liz Einstein passed out a list of definitions she was able to find that might help the board with terminology to use in the recommendations.

Chairman Northwood reviewed the Minutes from the last meeting. He mentioned that Hal Cole wanted to know about sandwich boards and marquees coming before the Zoning Board for a variance.

Chairman Northwood wanted to call to attention to Supervisor Dumian what he felt was an error in the Town Board meeting minutes that stated that the Zoning Board prepares changes in the law. He wanted Bill to know that the Board understands it can only give information and make recommendations.

Hal Cole suggested that electronic message signs be added as a permitted use. That we agree on a definition from the list that Liz had provided. (attached) It was suggested that Changeable Electronic variable message signs (CEVMS) fit our need the best. Putting it in the definitions on page 140:11 under the sign section adding letter "I" and referring to it as needed. Hal reminded everyone that it was not an advertising sign but a business sign. It could be recommended that it be in Article VII A-R Agricultural Rural District and it could continue on to the other districts. The sign has to relate to something on that property to be a business sign. Otherwise it would be an advertising sign and not be allowed. We need to add something about the size of signs. We could reference that the size of the sign should be per code.

Nathan suggested that in section 140-102 under A. Business signs we could add that these Changeable Electronic Variable Message Signs are allowed, but perhaps under one of the other permitted signs area we state that they would not be allowed. An example was under Roof Signs. Perhaps we don't want to permit these types of signs on the roof. Hal agreed that we don't want roof signs. Hal asked if we should state that business ground signs would be the only one permitted. Any others would need to come to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance.

Hal reminded everyone that back in April of last year recommendations were made to the Town Board but they were never acted upon.

A discussion was had on Permit exceptions. Nathan suggested that something be put in section 140-111 that references CEVMS. Perhaps saying No sign without a permit may be a CEVMS. Hal suggested all CEVMS require a permit. Art Boyle suggested an asterisk on B. that says does not include CEVMS. Bill Dumian commented that the code book is confusing as it is. Is there a way to say this so it doesn't over complicate things? Hal felt Art had a good suggestion adding in 140-111 Permit Exceptions B. adding to end of Signs permitted in any district without sign permit (with exception of CEVMS which are not allowed)

Hal asked to go back to Article VII Section 140-100 J. Be changed. We are not enforcing that and he doesn't think we should enforce that. We have small businesses and we should allow them to keep banners, pennants and sandwich boards beyond 30 days with a permit. He felt we should do that or enforce the rule. There are several up and down Conklin Rd. As long as it doesn't distract anyone, he doesn't see why we shouldn't have them. Liz suggested that Banners, Vertical Banners, Free Standing Banners, Pennants, Sandwich Boards be permitted. While search lights should be prohibited. All agreed.

Art Boyle mentioned that with the message sign at the fire station. The flashing changes about every three seconds. When it shows the wording it changes to 5 seconds. He doesn't know if we should put that in the code. Liz suggested we remove the second part of CEVMS definition.

The following are suggestions (recommendations) for the Town Board:

1) Under Sign Definitions – (page 140:11) Add a (I.) Changeable Electronic Variable Message Signs (CEVMS) are subject to the same size and location restrictions as other signs regulated by Town of Conklin Code. In addition, changeable electronic variable message signs are subject to the following restrictions:

(1) Any change of pictures or information on the changeable electronic variable message sign shall not produce the illusion of blinking, flashing, expanding or contracting shapes, rotation or any similar effect of animation. The scrolling of text is allowed, however, it shall not last any longer than five seconds.

(2) There shall be a minimum period of 8 seconds between any change of pictures, information, or scrolling on the changeable electronic variable message signs.

2) Section 140-100 General Sign Regulations. (J.) should be changed to read Banners, Vertical Banners, Free Standing Banners, Pennants, Sandwich Boards shall be permitted in C-N, C-G, IL. Search Lights are prohibited. Remove rest of paragraph.

3) Section 140-101 Permitted signs in Residential and Agricultural-Rural Districts. Under B. Add an (F.) Changeable Electronic Variable Message Signs (CEVMS) are permitted in Agricultural-Rural District only.

4) Section 140-102 Permitted Signs in Commercial and Industrial Districts. Under A. add a number (6). Can be Changeable Electronic Variable Message Signs (CEVMS).

5) Section 140-102 Permitted Signs in Commercial and Industrial Districts. Under C. Remove the sentence "Informational signs used for this purpose shall be blue in color with white lettering".

6) Section 140-111 Permit Exceptions Under B. Signs permitted in any district without sign permit. (add) The following signs cannot be Changeable electronic variable message signs (CEVMS).

Chairman Northwood asked that the board come up with other ideas in the sign codes that may need to be changed so we can discuss at the next meeting. He asked that Will take this back to the board. Willie suggested they type up a recommendation for the town board.

William Northwood motioned to adjourn the meeting and Art Boyle second. All present board members approved.

Next Zoning Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 6, 2017.

Northwood closed the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Plonski – Zoning Board Secretary