

Bylaw Review Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2019

Members Present: Alisa Brewer, Bernie Kubiak, Bob Ritchie (Chair), Evan Ross. Absent: Patricia De Angelis

Staff Present: Geoff Kravitz

No members of the public present

Quorum present as of 9:30 AM

Discussion re: Local Historic District bylaw. Leave as is but offer explanation to council as to what changes may be made. There is a need to understand and state why Historical Commission prefers to keep the present language.

3.24 Animal Safety: Kravitz believes regulations relating to animals should be contained in three bylaws: dogs, cats, urban livestock. Discussion suspended to take up Historical Commission bylaw.

Chris Brestrup, Nate Malloy (Planning Department, Historical Commission): Kravitz asks why Historical Commission prefers that no changes be made. In former version there were bolded defined terms, the point being that there can be no changes to any structure without a certificate issued by the Commission. The Building Commissioner also feels that the section is unambiguous. Ritchie asks how we might remedy the confusion experienced by the member of the committee. Practice is to have persons meet with staff prior to making any application. Malloy agrees that the paragraph is convoluted. After discussion, a rewrite may be acceptable that divides the bylaw into sections that cover the requirements and refers to the section containing exclusions. Revised language was developed as a result. Kravitz will send revised language to Historical Commission and Building Commissioner for review.

Signs: Historical Commission has a two square foot limit as opposed to the state's one square foot, also reflected in zoning. Ritchie's concern is the Commission's regulations are not content neutral. Agreed that there will be a 2 square foot maximum display area, without reference to content. Non-illuminated, wood signs will remain.

Discussion regarding capitalization as used in the bylaws. Should defined terms be capitalized throughout the bylaw? Need to be consistent throughout the entire the entire bylaw. Suggestion is to add to Section 1.1 noting that defined terms are not capitalized throughout the bylaw. Concern is that the meaning of a bylaw could be altered by lack of capitalization. Decision: capitalize terms defined in each section of the bylaw.

The meeting on 8/27/2019 will convene at 9:30 AM. Agenda will be essentially the same as this meeting. The committee will take up Ritchie's memo regarding signs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bernie Kubiak, Clerk

Documents referred to  
Draft #6, Revised Bylaws