

**Centreville Planning Commission
Work Session
October 5, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

The October 5, 2016 Centreville Planning Commission work session was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Elizabeth Brice, Vice Chair, in the Liberty Building, second floor meeting room. The following members and staff were present: Elizabeth Brice, Vice Chair; Penny Lins, Norma Coursey and Dale Anderson, Members; George G. Sigler, Town Council President; Steve Walls, Town Manager; Sharon VanEmburch, Town Attorney; John Fury, Zoning Administrator/Watershed Manager; Chris Jakubiak, Acting Town Planner; and Betty Jean Hall, Administrative Assistant.

Discussion

a. Sign discussion

- Ms. VanEmburch reviewed process taken in drafting the Town of Easton Ordinance No. 621 Section 1101.6 E. Electronic Signs. She stated the Planning Commission members need to decide whether or not to keep the current prohibition in place or allow electronic signs in some form or whether there will be regulation of them, if they are not allowed everywhere, maybe not in the CBD. She added you always have to be careful that everything you do is content neutral, you cannot regulate the message on the sign. You have to focus on things such as brightness or how long a message will last. Safety and aesthetics are a valid concern.
- Ms. Lins commented she did not see anything in the Easton regulations with regards to signs with lights missing and feels as though these signs are distracting in the way that you are trying to figure out what the sign is trying to say.
- Mr. Jakubiak mentioned differing regulations between residential and commercial areas.
- Mr. Fury stated the move to electronic signs by business owners has become easier because the cost has significantly decreased.
- Ms. Brice asked for clarification of definition. We are talking about digital signs, electronic signs and electronic digital signs. A digital sign is a sign that uses digital lights. An electronic digital sign is one that uses electronic digital lights that either moves, changes messages or something of that nature. Mr. Jakubiak has not seen that differentiation before. He believes digital and electronic are used interchangeably. Mr. Fury stated they are both electronic, a digital sign is an electronic sign because it is operated electronically, whether it is LED, neon or incandescent.
- Ms. Brice stated another concern is the number of signs on or in a building.
- Ms. Lins commented there are some businesses where there are paper signs within the windows that cover up the entire front façade. Mr. Fury stated there is a limit for window signage and it cannot take up an entire window.
- Ms. Coursey asked what the County standards are regarding signs. Mr. Fury has not yet looked into the County sign code.
- Crystal Richard, Esq. on behalf of Shore United Bank stated the County has regulations exactly to this issue. In her opinion we should have consistency with Queen Anne's County. The sign that is installed now is smaller than what was previously there. The main message on the sign changes once per month at midnight from inside the building. The sign also displays the time and temperature. The manufacturer of the Shore United Bank sign was also present. He stated most electronic signs have automatic dimmers to change the intensity of the message from daylight to nighttime. He also stated a digital sign is an electronic sign.
- Ms. Brice stated there are only 4 members of the Planning Commission present at this meeting. Due to the fact that this is a monumental task she proposed we take these comments and the Commission have another work session at a later date.

Adjournment

The October 5, 2016 Planning Commission work session adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Jean Hall

Betty Jean Hall
Administrative Assistant