

TOWN OF NORTH EAST ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES January 29, 2024

The Town of North East Zoning Review Committee meeting took place on Monday, January 29, 2024, at the North East Town Hall, located at 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York at 7:30 PM. Board members present were Chair Edie Greenwood, Ed Downey, Julie Schroeder, Dave Sherman, Bill Kish, and Dale Culver. Rob Cooper also attended.

ZRC Working DRAFT Signs dated December 20, 2023.

Page 1 – Projecting Sign

Kish indicated that 6 inches would be sufficient to put lights behind a sign. He also noted we had not discussed this situation, leaving such a design decision up to the Planning Board.

In the definition Kish did not like the wording “leading edge” as he felt it was vague. He suggested it be replaced with “any part”. Sherman suggested changing it to “outer edge”. **ZRC decided to ask Agresta to choose which phrase he preferred and make the change accordingly.**

Page 1 – Wall Sign

Sherman was concerned with the phrase “mounted flush” was too limiting. He suggested that it be allowed to extend out up to 6 inches. Kish suggested adding “or no more than 6 inches from” a building wall. An example would be an Exit Sign. Sherman posed an alternative to just remove “mounted flush” so it relates to anything screwed to the wall. **Agresta should decide on which is the better approach.**

Page 2 – FreeStanding Monument Sign

The committee questions why Pole Signs are prohibited and proposed the last phrase in the definition be deleted. Downey suggested we add an illustration of a generic FreeStanding Monument Sign and reference the Greenway Guide example. Culver suggested we find out how high the new NBT bank sign is to help determine an appropriate height as 7 ft seems low. Later confirmed that the top of this sign is at 7 feet.

Page 2 – Pole or Post Sign

Why are they prohibited? Does Dutchess County object? The committee does not know where this prohibition came from. In looking at the Greenway Guide, we don’t want high Lolly Pop signs, but can we regulate pole signs by limiting the height. **A question for Agresta.**

Page 2 – Window Sign

The committee agreed with Agresta.

Page 5 – B Applicability

(3) Schroeder wants to delete “or user” in the last line. ZRC agreed this change allows more flexibility.

(4) Committee agreed to change 60 days to 120 days.

(7) Kish wants to keep the enforcement language in. He acknowledges it is in other sections but wants to make it more accessible to applicants.

Page 6 – (8) Temporary Signs

The committee discussed attorney Paul VanCott’s comment to exempt Temporary Signs. Rather than putting the dimensional/time restrictions into the definitions, the **ZRC decided to ask Agresta if he could create a table for the various types of Temporary Signs and have them apply to all districts.**

Page 7 – (c) Temporary Holiday Decorations

The committee decided to eliminate this section.

Page 7 – (d) Temporary Real Estate Sign

The committee agreed with Agresta’s comment and decided to leave it as is.

Page 7 – (e) Temporary Tag Sale Sign

Given Paul VanCott’s question, ask Agresta if he recommends that this section be eliminated. If not, reduce the size to 4 square feet.

Page 7 – (f) Temporary Yard Sign

Change six (6) square feet to four (4) square feet.

Page 8 – Section 180-X3 Prohibited Signs

Section (9) – Kish finds the language confusing and offered to draft language to clarify its intent. He suggests the following:

A sign that is internally illuminated (i.e., illuminated from a light source internal to its construction), also including video screens (digital and otherwise electronic display screens playing or transmitting video and/or audio messages whether static, rotating, or continuous). Permitted outdoor devices such as fuel dispensers, vending machines, EV chargers, tire air pumps or similar may not incorporate internally illuminated decorative or sign elements and shall not incorporate video displays or display elements described in (3) above except as necessary for operation of the device.

Additional Kish comment. *If we don’t like referencing (3) to bring in all the aspects of an animated sign, then we can re-add the word “animated” to (3) or to the definitions and can then say “...shall not incorporate video displays or animated elements except...”*

Page 9 – Section 180-X3 Permitted Signs by Zoning District.

The Committee agrees with Agresta.

Page 10 – Light Industrial (M-A) District Chart

Building section – Kish replacement language for Agresta inserted language under Other.

For properties with multiple tenants, all tenants shall use the same type of sign (Canopy, Awning or Marquee, Wall, Projecting, Hanging, or Painted).

Page 10 - Incidental Signs related to the above Establishments.

Directional – reduce the Maximum Size to 3 sf.

Make this change in the Directional section of all districts.

Page 11 – Boulevard and Irondale Districts

Freestanding Monument section under Other – In the third point, add a reference to the Lighting standards chapter.

Page 12 – Boulevard and Irondale Districts

Supplemental to Gas Station – Agree with Agresta, leave as is.

Typo on line 7 of the original code – should be” non-flashing”.

Page 13 – Residential and Land Conservation Districts

Non-Residential Establishments (except as otherwise listed)

Freestanding Monument – **ZRC agrees with the County comment.** Should be a choice, not both.

Page 15 – Section 180-X3 Sign Design Standards.

Section A (8) (c) v. – Change “Ground” to “Upward facing” lighting shall not be permitted.

Kish is concerned that there are no design standards relating to Projecting Signs. **Ask Agresta to comment.**

Page 17 – Section 180-X3 Nonconforming Signs

Section D. Greenwood to follow up with Ken McLaughlin regarding previous effort to register non-conforming signs.

The committee needs to discuss and decide what course of action to take with respect to Nonconforming signs not registered.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday February 5, 2024, at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Edith Greenwood - ZRC Chair