

TOWN OF NORTH EAST ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE WORKSHOP MINUTES February 27, 2024

The Town of North East Zoning Review Committee meeting took place on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the Village of Millerton Town Hall, located at 5999 North Elm Avenue, Millerton, New York at 7:30 PM. Board members present were Chair Edie Greenwood, Ed Downey, Julie Schroeder, Dave Sherman, and Bill Kish. Rob Cooper, Chris Kennan, and Meg Winkler also attended.

ZRC Working DRAFT Signs dated February 11, 2024.

Page 1 – Wall Sign

Sherman suggests we reword the end of the definitions to read “.....building wall and **no part of the sign shall extend greater than six (6) inches outward**”. The ZRC agreed to make this change.

Page 2 – Directional Sign

Sherman wanted to make it clear that these signs were on the property so asked that the phrase “**located on the premises**” be added at the end of the definition. The ZRC agreed to make this change.

Schroeder questioned why we do not have a **definition for Yard Sign (or Personal Message) sign other than in the table of Temporary Signs**. A sign with a noncommercial message such as the Ukraine signs that are currently up. These are signs that do not have a time limit.

Kish commented on the profanity laden political banners in the village. We know they cannot be prohibited but can code control their size to provide some constraints to make them less intrusive.

Questions for Agresta and our attorney.

Page 5 – B Applicability (4) – typo. The number should be (120)

Schroder pointed out that we do not address off-premises directional signs in this code. **Should Section 180.55 H – Off-Premises Directions Signs be added back to our code? A question for Agresta.**

Page 11 – Boulevard and Irondale Districts One or More Commercial Establishments

Building – ZRC decided to simplify and agreed with the county so **change it to 20 sf.**

Sherman wanted to add “at the tenant’s main entrance” under the Maximum Number column.

Municipal/Public Utility Establishments

Discussion regarding if we should regulate municipalities as they are exempt. Should municipal be taken out of the definition. Downey felt it should be left in as municipalities should follow their own code.

The ZRC felt there should be two different sections. In the Municipal section the Maximum size should be increased to 20 sf. **Should both uses be moved to Table C as both exist outside the town’s commercial districts. A question for Agresta.**

Downey questioned how a Municipal sign is defined. Do they include school signs? Kish has done research and found that school signs are subject to town zoning law.

Page 12 – Boulevard and Irondale Districts

Supplemental to Gas Station and Gas Stations with Convenience Store uses – Questioned the need to allow up to 3 sf. Is this regulated or can it be reduced? **A question for Agresta.**

Page 15 – Temporary Signs Chart

Grand Opening Sign – Ask Agresta if this covers banners and if so, 6 sf seems too small. What size does Agresta recommend is appropriate and used in other codes.

Page 17 – Section 180-X3 Sign Design Standards.

Section A (8) (c) (1) – Add reference to the M-A District in the listing of districts.

Page 19 – Section 180-X3 Nonconforming Signs

Given the town's limited enforcement staffing, **ask Agresta for his recommendation as to a realistic approach to reworking Section D and E.**

Greenwood recognized Chris Kennan who told us of his research with other towns regarding their approaches to regulating Electronic Messaging Display (EMD) signs. Some towns permit EMD signs for civic and non-commercial uses subject to stringent regulations. He directed us to look at the LaGrange code Section 240-43 J - N as an example. Kennan stated he and the Town Board felt this was a reasonable approach and asked that the ZRC consider adding this type of language.

Kish questioned how these sign rules would be enforced and felt LED lights should remain prohibited. Kennan argued they can add value as a communication tool.

Kish felt the Town could solve its current issues by passing a zoning code amendment now, before receiving the ZRC package, allowing LED lighting. Then our draft code prohibits LED lights but allows existing LED signs to remain.

Greenwood asked how civic would be defined and was told churches or a museum would qualify as civic. Schroeder mentioned the rural character referenced in our Comprehensive Plan and her feeling that LED lighting was not compatible with this goal. Kish agreed.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday March 18, 2024, at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by
Edith Greenwood - ZRC Chair