

**THE PLANNING BOARD
TOWN OF FRANCESTOWN, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

December 1, 2015

MINUTES

Planning Board Members Present: L. Ames, L. Kunhardt, L. Bourbeau, A. Arnold, S. Pyle, P. Tolman

Alternates Present: none

Others Present: P. Freese

L. Kunhardt is taking the minutes.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:38 pm.

Review of Minutes: 11/17/2015 – **Motion:** P. Tolman moves to accept the minutes of 11/17/2015 as amended by adding two dates of newspaper posting (11/5 and 11/10) for the Eversource Scenic Road Hearing. **Second:** L. Bourbeau
Vote: Favor - L. Ames, L. Kunhardt, A. Arnold, L. Bourbeau, P. Tolman. Abstain - S. Pyle. Minutes of 11/17/2015 approved as amended.

Review of Sign Ordinance: US Supreme Court decision necessitates review of sign ordinance. P. Tolman and A. Arnold participated in NH sponsored webinar. A. Arnold discussed matter with Town Counsel, B. Mayer. Question raised as to how B. Mayer was paid and how he got hired to review Francestown's sign language as the PBoard had not voted to do so. A. Arnold asked him to take a look at it. Purpose statement needs to be addressed. Temporary signs may be problematic. Current sign ordinance is specific about content items and is not content neutral. This must now be changed by attempting to become content neutral. Discussion ensues. 1st draft language provided by B. Mayer. Time limits are a mechanism but results in need for Sign Permits. Sign categories include: Governmental (Posted signs, Stop signs, any required by law), Commercial (real estate signs would become commercial). Commercial signs may be regulated differently than other signs. Further discussion. Another mechanism allows all properties one sign (as does our current ordinance) and any other signs on that property would be time period/permitted. Discussion of limiting number of allowed days yearly each lot would be able to erect a sign. Discussion of limiting free speech. Status of event signage and political signage is unclear. Further discussion. Board agrees to return to discussion on 12/15/2015 after CIP.

Other ZO Review: Aquifer Protection – J. Munn previously brought to PBoard attention our section is out of date as per DES model ordinances. DES model requires much oversight and/or enforcement. Discussion ensues. Kunhardt to forward check list to PBmembers. **Restaurants** – newspaper article brought attention to issue of seating in store. Current ordinance may be ambiguous on issue of seating. Discussion of restaurants and convenience stores definitions. Discussion of state reg. defining a restaurant as more than 5 chairs. Discussion of septic capabilities. G. Tolman will provide draft of restaurant/convenience store language.

PB Budget: Discussion of proposed budget. Discussion of line items for PBclerk, PBtravel, PBprinting. Discussion of budget increases every year, the 2016 budget being a 3% increase over 2015. **Motion:** L. Kunhardt moves to reduce the line item for printing from \$100.00 to \$25.00. No second. **Motion:** A. Arnold moves to adopt budget as presented. **Second:** S. Pyle **Vote:** Favor – P. Tolman, L. Ames, A. Arnold, S. Pyle **Opposed:** - L. Kunhardt **Abstain:** - L. Bourbeau. Motion carries and proposed budget is approved as presented.

Announcements and Communications: Discussion of further ZO changes? Parking? Demographic chapter status?

Next meeting: 12/15/2015 for CIP, Signs, Restaurants/Convenience Stores, Demographics Chapter

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.