

East Lyme Zoning Commission Subcommittee on sign regulations
Meeting of May 28th. 1996

The meeting was opened at 7:30 pm at the town hall after having been duly posted in the town clerk's office.

Those present were ; Chris Mullaney, (resident and member of the zoning commission)
Michele Masse, (Small business owner and member of the down town merchants association)
Robert Simpson, (resident and real estate business owner)
Lewis Bull (resident and commercial farmer), Ted Denesha (representing the town's veterans organizations)

The above, at present, make up the ad hock subcommittee who's purpose is to review the town's zoning sign regulations with the intent to assure they fit the intent of the regulations, the character of the town and at the same time assure that they are clear and business friendly. The committee has read the regulations and generally expressed their agreement that they are well written and need little change.

The committee was instructed that the entire sign regulation was fair game for comment and suggested change but that in particular there were three areas which the zoning board was interested in studying. They are; Temporary signs, Neon signs, community bill board and or civic organization signs.

During this session the committee completed their review of the sign regulations published in the East Lyme Zoning Regulations and agreed to combine the finding from the April meeting and the May meeting for clarity purposes and to meet again on June 18th. 1996 to assimilate the issues noted below and to propose or suggest changes in these regulations which may clarify them, ease enforcement, and accommodate all the towns' concerns.

They agreed that the following sections need further study, a change, or clarification.

18.1.6 There is missing content from pg. 74 to 75

18.1.7.1.2 the top line on pg. 76 is duplicated.

18.1.7.1 Who is the sign review committee and how are they organized? Is their organization governed by by-laws and if so where are they?

18.1.9.2 Existing signs; How is this section administered?

18.1.9.2 Signs in the public right-of-way. The wording of this section should be expanded to be more descriptive as to what is the public right-of-way.

18.1.11 Temporary signs. discussion was incomplete at this time with more to come. It was agreed to revisit this section later.

18.1.12 Signs prohibited. there appears to be a conflict with Roof signs ? There are a number of roof signs around town.

18.1.12. 3 Neon signs. Discussion. a proposed rewrite of this regulation is to be presented in the future, as this regulation is not being enforced by the town's enforcement officer at this time.

This section presently allows Neons signs if two actions are taken; 1) a review by the sign design committee and 2) a special permit request is granted.

It was the opinion this group that the cost associated with a special permit and sign permits is excessively high and that the proliferation of illegal neon signs may be attributed to this high cost as well as other enforcement constraints.

** A proposed rewrite of this section will be solicited at the next meeting of this group.

18.1.12.4 One of the group reported that there appears to be a misunderstanding of this section and therefore a clarification may be required. here the question came up that the enforcement officer thought that a canopy sign would not be allowed. upon review the sign was allowed, but because a review had to be made this

would indicated that the wording is inadequate.

18.1.13.8 How will off premises billboards or signs be handed. Here is the question for the sign at Lulu's which we understand may be related to one of the Casinos? If this is allowed will others then fall in the same venue for off premises signs?

18.1.13.2 Fees. See comments on 18.1.12.3 above and then we may want to clarify which fees apply and where they can be found. It is suggested that if the fees schedule is relatively high a general reduction may be in order. Also see below.

18.1.7.1 Design review committee. there makeup and function were again questioned. if there is a design review committee then they should be identified.

18.1.13.3 General Permit Procedures; The timing aspect is of concern. It is understood that a "fast track" time of 15 days is anticipated. If this is so, then in each instance where a "within 30 days" is mentioned then it should read " within 15 days" . This also applies to sub paragraphs.

Here the though is that for small business opening the 30 days could drag on to 60 days and the businesses could then be hurt by delays.

Fee schedule pg. 89; It was the opinion of some that this should be clarified and possibly reduced. This may make compliance more palatable to the general public.

Temporary signs. Mr.Denesha noted that one of the veterans groups which he represents voted to recommend that no temporary signs be erected in the down town park. This may be contrary to the towns present activities.

Community activity signs; There is presently no language in the regulations which address this type sign. It has been suggested that a large bulletin board type sign might be advantageous to the community. The following is an adaptation of the town of Cheshire regulations which might be appropriate for East Lyme;

"Community Bulletin boards . The Town of East Lyme may have two (2) community bulletin boards for the purpose of advertising community events which are sponsored by any civic or non-profit organization recognized as having it's permanent address with in the town of East Lyme and which events are open to the general public and take place within the town of East Lyme. These signs may be erected on public or privet land and internal or externally lit but such lighting must be shielded from all property lines. These signs shall have 4" high changeable letters and shall not exceed 80 sq. ft. These signs may also contain the symbols of local service groups who may elect to maintain and service these signs."

* * * (√ paragraphs so marked were added from previous notes and meetings) * * *

√Change the definition PORTABLE SIGNS(ON PAGE 71) TO
"PORTABLE/TEMPORARY SIGNS:

√Change table 1.5.A." PERMITTED SIGNS BY TYPE AND ZONING DISTRICT"
by removing the "N" adjacent to portable and under the ZONING DISTRICT columns labeled COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, and HIGHWAY (Commercial and Industrial) and replacing it with the symbol "S1".
Add, in the explanatory notes at the bottom of the table..."Symbol "S1"= Allowed only with a sign permit but that the fees required by the fee schedule are waived."

√Add to section 18 " SIGN REGULATIONS " a new paragraph 18.1.11.6

"The zoning enforcement officer is empowered to issue permits for the erection of temporary portable signs in accordance with the requirements of this section of these regulations provided that ; only one temporary potable sign permit per zone lot will be issued, the owner of the lot ,his agent or permit tee is responsible to assure that said sign is, secured so as not to become a hazard due to wind or weather and is removed daily, the maximum size allowed is 32 square feet,(as is allowed elsewhere in these regulations), The duration this permit may remain in force is not longer than 30 days.

Permits for the erection of temporary portable signs on town owned property (such as parks and greens) may be issued only by and at the discretion of the sellectman's office. These latter permits may be issued to non-profit charitable organizations who's headquarters or base of operations is located with in the town of East Lyme and provided that ; only one temporary potable sign is allowed on any one parcel (park, green or other property) at any one time; that said organization is responsible to assure that said sign is removed promptly and that the maximum size allowed is 32 square feet.,further that the organization is indemnified to the requirements of the town of East Lyme.

The meeting was adjourned at 9;20pm and another meeting was scheduled for ;

Tuesday night 7;30pm June 18th. 1996 at the town hall in room #3 .

At his forthcoming meeting we intend to make recommendations as to suggested wording changes to the above noted sections which may enhance the meaning of the present regulations

S; *Chris Mullaney 5/28/96*