

TOWN OF EAST LYME

ZONING COMMISSION

AUGUST 6, 2015

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

FILED IN EAST LYME
CONNECTICUT
AUG 10 2015 AT 10:35 AM/PM
Diane O. Green ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

MEMBERS PRESENT:

MATTHEW WALKER, CHAIRMAN
TERENCE DONOVAN
WILLIAM DWYER
NORM PECK
JAMES LISKA, ALTERNATE (DID NOT SIT)
GEORGE MCPHERSON
PETER LUKAS, ALTERNATE (SAT FOR PUBLIC HEARING)

ALSO PRESENT:

ATTORNEY MARK ZAMARKA
HOLLY CHEESEMAN, EX-OFFICIO
BILL MULHOLLAND, ZONING OFFICER
RITA FRANCO-PALAZZO, PLANNING REPRESENTATIVE

MEMBERS ABSENT:

MATTHEW KANE
SHAWN SINGER, ALTERNATE

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Walker called the Public Hearing to order at 7:35 p.m.

Chairman Walker sat Mr. Lukas in Mr. Kane's absence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Walker led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

There were no public delegations.

- 1. APPLICATION OF THE TOWN OF EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION FOR AN ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARD AT THE EAST LYME TOWN HALL, 108 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NIANTIC.**

Chairman Walker confirmed the legal advertisement ran on this item.

Mr. McPherson read a memo from Mr. Mulholland.

Dave Putnam, Director of Parks and Recreation and a member of the Niantic Rotary stated the Rotary has donated \$15,000 toward this electronic message board. They thought the Town Hall would be an appropriate location. He has worked with John Wilson of Sign Craft with the design.

Mr. Mulholland stated the location is staked in front of the Town Hall.

Mr. Putnam stated they would like to move the State of Connecticut sign to the island in the parking lot. The electronic message board would be to the right of the sidewalk as you leave the First Selectman's Office.

Mr. Mulholland stated they are welcome to go out and look at the location.

Chairman Walker stated he didn't feel they needed to go out, and the Commission concurred.

Mr. Mulholland stated the center of the message board will be the electronic board, the top will be a fixed sign, and the only active lighting will be in the center. The Regulations address the frequency of the brightness level, and the changeable copy.

Chairman Walker asked Mr. Mulholland if this conforms will all of the Regulation's criteria.

Mr. Putnam stated it will be to advertise for non-profit events. The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to get rid of the sandwich boards on the Town Green.

Chairman Walker asked about the words per message.

Mr. Putnam stated each screen has to stay up at least 10 seconds. There will be no scrolling or flashing. They would still do banners on the Town Green, but no sandwich boards. This could also be used for emergencies and road closures.

Chairman Walker stated this is an impressive donation by the Rotary.

John Wilson of Sign Craft, 5 Black Point Road, Niantic, stated this will fit in with the aesthetics of the Town and will get rid of the sandwich boards on the green. The top section will be curved. The electronic display will have a burgundy background. The changeable copy can be made to sleep.

Mr. Donovan asked if it can be dimmed at night.

Mr. Wilson stated there is an automatic dimming feature. The electronic display will be burgundy with white letters. Everything is adjustable, it can be controlled from the 911 center, and they can wake up the sign for an emergency.

Mr. Donovan asked if there would be lights on it.

Mr. Wilson stated it could potentially be lit, but they don't think they need that from the get go.

Mr. Dwyer asked if it is two sided.

Mr. Wilson stated yes, and time and temperature can also be displayed.

Mr. Donovan suggested putting the Town Hall sign on top of the electronic sign instead of Community Events.

Mr. Wilson stated the Town Hall sign is 7 feet wide and 3 feet tall. It would not fit within the regulations.

Mr. Mulholland stated we can work on it.

Mr. Wilson stated they discussed putting pavers and benches on the island where the State sign is being moved to.

Chairman Walker stated he thinks it would be ok with the Town Hall sign separate from this one, but he wouldn't be adverse to them combining them.

Mr. McPherson asked if they have coordinated the location with the Lions regarding the Art Show. It looks like it will take up a bit of their space.

Public Comment:

Richard Kushman of 107 Pennsylvania Avenue, Niantic, stated he lives directly across from the Town Hall. He is not against this sign, but it is a complicated corner in the summer. Smith Street is used as a cut through, his concern is safety. He believes there is an argument for putting it on the Town Green. People would stop at the light and have plenty of time to read it.

Richard Gada of 77 West Main Street, Niantic, stated he is a business owner and a member of the Rotary. They worked very hard raising this money. He thinks this will update the town, the signs can be removed from the green, and possibly traffic may slow down.

Kristen Foster stated this will keep people informed, this will add pizzazz to the town and she thinks we need it.

2. APPLICATION OF RING'S END B&L CONSTRUCTION, FOR RING'S END LUMBER, TO CONSTRUCT A PARKING LOT AND STORAGE AREA AT O HOPE STREET, NIANTIC.

Chairman Walker confirmed the legal advertisement ran on this item.

Mr. McPherson read a memo from Mr. Mulholland.

Mr. Mulholland suggested they continue this public hearing as the applicant is not present.

Mr. Donovan stated it looks like they just want to pave it.

Mr. Mulholland it would be paved and used.

Mr. Peck stated he remembers discussing this years ago.

Mr. Mulholland stated he can look into that, but there is a question of what they will store there.

Mr. Donovan stated he has only seen lumber there.

Mr. Dwyer stated it is a small parking lot.

Public Comment:

John Wilson of Sign Craft, 5 Black Point Road, Niantic, stated he made the sign for Ring's End. They want to just pave it. It is a fenced in area.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Miller Galbo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Karen Miller Galbo
Recording Secretary**