

TOWN OF EAST LYME  
ZONING COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 16, 2014  
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

**Members Present:**

Marc Salerno, Chairman  
George McPherson  
Terence Donovan  
Matthew Kane  
Norm Peck  
Matthew Walker  
William Dwyer, Alternate (Did Not Sit)

**Members Absent:**

James Liska, Alternate  
Peter Lukas, Alternate

**Also Present:**

Bill Mulholland, Zoning Officer  
Holly Cheeseman, Ex-Officio

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Salerno called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Salerno led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC DELEGATIONS**

There were no public delegations

1. **APPLICATION OF THE TOWN OF EAST LYME, BOARD OF EDUCATION, FOR A SPECIAL PERMIT FOR A COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD AT PROPERTY IDENTIFIED IN THE APPLICATION AS 171 BOSTON POST ROAD, EAST LYME, KNOWN AS EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL, 30 CHESTERFIELD ROAD, EAST LYME**

Chairman Salerno confirmed the legal advertisement ran on this item.

Mr. Walker read a memo from Mr. Mulholland.

FILED IN EAST LYME  
CONNECTICUT  
OCT 23 2014 AT 8:45 AM PM  
Kelli Yalno, etc  
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Don Meltabarger representing the applicant presented Exhibit 1 (Pictures of Proposed Sign). He stated the current sign is visually inadequate, especially at night. It is setback from the road and the line of site is blocked. The current sign doesn't communicate as necessary. With the proposed sign the notifications will be timely. The Principal's secretary can update the proposed sign with notifications. It will be 15 feet off the road, with a north and south view. It is 900 feet from the nearest stoplight. It will be an electric sign, a community bulletin board and is not in a residential area. The digital part will be 4 x 8.

Mr. Mulholland stated the outside of the digital sign will be bigger, and we allow up to 15 feet.

Mr. Meltabarger stated this is in compliance with all of the regulations. There will be no animation and no flashing.

Mr. Donovan asked what the construction of the poles will be.

Mr. Meltabarger stated they will be PVC.

John Wilson of Sign Craft, Black Point Road, Niantic stated they could be steel, he prefers aluminum. The sign will probably be too tall to use cement.

Chairman Salerno asked how heavy the sign will be.

Mr. Wilson stated it will be 375 to 400 pounds.

Mr. Mulholland stated they will need a permit from the building official.

Chairman Salerno stated their regulations don't allow pictures. How secure is this sign?

Mr. Meltabarger stated it will run off of a computer in the Principal's office, and that is password protected.

Bob Messier of Daktronics in Hansen, MA stated it is not run off of standard WIFI, there is a password protected controller in the display and the software on the school's computer. In order for someone to get into the sign they will have to have the protocols of the software.

Mr. Kane asked if it will be hooked up to a generator.

Mr. Meltabarger stated they will have to see what is involved with that.

Mr. Kane asked if Emergency Management, Police, and Fire will have access.

Mr. Meltabarger stated Mr. Morris will have access to a bridge from the Emergency Operations Center.

Mr. McPherson asked how far up Chesterfield Road this will be seen.

Mr. Meltabarger stated about 50 feet from the North.

Chairman Salerno asked Mr. Messier if there is any way to block out the ability to have flashing or scrolling on the sign.

Mr. Messier stated there are initial settings that can be built in to remove that option.

Chairman Salerno stated he would like that put into the conditions of the Motion so it can't be done.

Mr. Messier stated they also have a library of words that cannot be displayed.

Mr. Donovan asked if they will also have spotlights on the sign.

Mr. Wilson stated the Regulations permit ground lighting. There is one street light near there, and that may already be enough.

Mr. Messier stated the sign will adjust to ambient light.

Mr. Wilson stated the sign at Waterford High School is also a Daktronics sign. The ease of getting word to the public is instantaneous.

Mr. McPherson asked what the hours of operation will be.

Mr. Wilson stated they will have to give some thought to that. For an entire year it is estimated that the electricity cost for the sign is only approximately \$212.00

Mr. Donovan asked about maintenance of the sign.

Mr. Messier stated once a year the filters need to be cleaned.

**\*\*The Commission and the attendees adjourned to review a sample sign outside.**

**\*\*The meeting reconvened after 5 minutes.**

Chairman Salerno asked if 10 seconds of text is standard.

Mr. Messier stated 9 is about the standard.

Chairman Salerno stated the regulations say only written text.

Mr. Mulholland stated they also say no graphics.

There was no public comment.

**Motion (1) Mr. McPherson moved to close the Public Hearing.**

**Seconded by Mr. Peck.**

**Motion Passed 6-0.**

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Miller Galbo".

Karen Miller Galbo  
Recording Secretary