

**PLANNING COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
August 4, 2021**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this meeting was held in person and virtually. Questions and comments from the public were received through typed submission in chat format.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Dennis Martin.

PRESENT: Dennis Martin, Richard Jordan, Charles Kalemjian, Sam Matthews, Nancy Kane, Tim Bucher and Greg Allen via Zoom

ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Township Manager Scott Greenly; and Building & Zoning Official Tara Giordano

MINUTES: *Mr. Kalemjian made a motion to approve the minutes of July 7, 2021 Mr. Jordan seconded, and the motion was carried.*

BUISNESS:

Temporary Sign Ordinance Amendment – Discussion & Recommendation for Approval –

Ms. Giordano explained that the Ordinance presented is in response to the PA Supreme Court Ruling stating that all temporary sign regulations must be non-content biased as well as content neutral. The Township will still regulate the size, location, duration, illumination etc. of signs based on the location on public and private land.

Ms. Giordano gave a brief description of the changes for temporary signs included within the ordinance:

- T-1 Short Term Temporary Signs will be a maximum size of 6 sq-feet for a single purpose no more than two 45-day periods per year. The signs shall be removed immediately and only four signs are permitted on a property. All signs shall be placed outside of the right-of-way and may not block sight distances. These signs may include exterminators, contractors and landscaping companies.
- T-2 Temporary Signs related to activity on the same property as the sign is placed.
 - Residential: the sign may be a maximum of 6 sq-feet in the R-A, R-R, R-1 and R-2 districts.
 - Commercial: the sign may not exceed twenty-four sq-feet in the area of PC, PIC, PI, PC2 and PCID districts.

No more than one sign for each activity shall be placed on any one property which the activity is taking place unless such property fronts more than one public street. In this event one sign per street is permitted on each street frontage. The signs may be placed during the activity and shall be removed within 2 days of the completion of the activity. All signs shall be placed outside of the right-of-way and may not block sight distances. These signs may include for sale and leasing signs.

- T-3 Event Signs: the sign may not exceed more than 6 sq-feet and will be permitted on the property where the event is occurring. Three additional signs not exceeding 4 sq-feet may be placed along the streets in the area for directional purposes. The signs are permitted for the day of the event only and must be removed within 24 hours after the conclusion of the event. These signs may include open house and sale signs.
- T-4 Development Directional Signs: No changes were made to the details of this section. The previously numbered T-5 section and corresponding sections within will be renamed to reflect T-4 and the changes to the sign ordinance.

Questions raised by the Planning Commission include:

- The commission asked for the definition of 'content neutral' – the Township can not specify or enforce what is printed on the sign
- There was discussion on sign content and regulating signs that may be offensive to some individuals. The sign content itself does not fall under this ordinance.
- The commission asked for the definition of 'banners' – any event and/or advertising sign that is made of clothlike material is not permitted
- The American Flag is not considered a banner and can not be regulated under the Sign Ordinance
- Balloons are not considered a sign unless they contain writing
- The changes are necessary to comply with the PA Supreme Court ruling as the current ordinance is not enforceable based on this ruling
- Public Health and safety verbiage is included to coincide with the current zoning ordinance
- Political signs are considered short term temporary – they can be placed on a property for two 45-day periods per year and up to four signs are permitted. The signs must be on private property and no sign may be placed in the right-of-way or on any public property

Questions raised by the public include:

Steve Hessler asked about signs containing wording and images that could be considered offensive and if/how these signs would be enforced.

- It was again stated that the sign content itself does not fall under this ordinance.

*Mr. Jordan made a motion to recommend the Temporary Sign Ordinance Amendment. Mr. Butcher seconded Mr. Martin asked for public comment. There being none, the motion was carried unanimously. *It is noted that Greg Allen voted yes via zoom**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All meetings are again held at the Township building but may also be accessed via “zoom” platform. Please refer to the website for meeting links if applicable.

1. 08/09 - Board of Supervisors – 7:30 pm
2. 08/11 – Zoning Hearing Board – 7:00 pm

Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Ms. Kane seconded and the motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate Gillen