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WEYMOUTH PLANNING BOARD
VIA WebEX
Tuesday, November 17, 2020 @ 6:00 PM
MINUTES

PRESENT:

Sandra Williams, Chairman
Paul Rotondo
Greg Agnew

ALSO PRESENT:

Eric Schneider, Principal Planner
Robert Luongo, Planning Director

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion and possible action on Measure 20 100 requesting an amendment to Section 120-64.7.1 of the Weymouth Zoning Ordinance (Billboard Relocation Overlay District)

Chair Williams began the meeting by stating that a joint public hearing had previously been held on this matter and that the hearing had been closed. No further testimony would be accepted.

Ms. Williams took a roll call of the Board before opening the meeting for discussion.

Ms. Williams asked the Board if they had any opening questions. Neither Mr. Rotondo or Mr. Agnew asked question.

Ms. Williams asked if Planning staff had any additional information to share.

Mr. Luongo stated that he had received correspondence from resident Kathy Swain and was asked to share that correspondence with the Board. Mr. Luongo did not believe that this was appropriate as the public hearing had been previously closed.

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that, in his opinion, two questions faced the Board. First, a memo from Town Solicitor Joe Callanan had been submitted to both the Planning Board and the Town Council voicing his legal opinion that Measure 20 100 should be considered a repetitive petition and therefore neither body should act on the Measure.

Mr. Schneider pointed out that, if the Board agreed with Solicitor Callanan's position, further debate on its merits may not be necessary.

Chair Williams agreed that there were three possible actions that the Board could take:

1. Vote to recommend favorable action
2. Vote to recommend unfavorable action
3. Take No Action (acknowledge repetitive petition)

Mr. Rotondo asked whether Solicitor Callanan had any further information or updates since the closing of the public hearing.

Solicitor Callanan stated that he did not have any specific updates but would be happy to answer questions from the Board.

Ms. Williams clarified for the Board that the role of the Planning Board was to provide a recommendation to the Town Council and the final decision on the matter was theirs.

Mr. Agnew spoke next and stated that he truly wanted the best possible outcome for the residents of Weymouth and that he understood the difficulty of the situation. As there was no new information to consider, he would support the option that he thought would best assist the residents that are being negatively affected.

Ms. Williams applauded the residents for their involvement. She acknowledged that residents are the best observers of the things impacting their neighborhoods and provide insight that the Board may not otherwise get.

Chair Williams asked for a **MOTION**.

Mr. Rotondo made a **MOTION to RECOMMEND**

The **MOTION** was seconded by Mr. Agnew.

Chair Williams took a roll call vote:

Ms. Williams: Yes

Mr. Rotondo: Yes

Mr. Agnew: Yes

The vote was unanimous to **RECOMMEND FAVORABLE ACTION**

Mr. Schneider asked for confirmation that the intent of the vote was to recommend favorable action. Ms. Williams confirmed.

NEXT MEETINGS

The next meeting of the Planning Board will be held on December 1, 2020.

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that, at the last Town Council meeting, President Mathews has introduced a related Measure requesting a one-year moratorium on billboard permits. Mr. Schneider pointed out that this may require an additional joint hearing with Town Council and that he would keep the Board updated.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Agnew made a MOTION to ADJOURN at 6:30 PM. Mr. Rotondo SECONDED the MOTION. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Schneider
Principal Planner

Approve Sandra Williams, Chairman
Sandra Williams, Chairman

Dated: March 3, 2021