

MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Thursday, September 24, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM.

Members present were: David Smith Sr., Tim Fulco, Christopher Tomich, Peter Cherneff and Margaret Martin.

Sign-in sheet attached.

The meeting started at 6:50 PM because a group was waiting to speak to the Board and a hearing was set to start at 7:15 PM.

Petition to maintain residential neighborhood: David and Marsha Pottle, Richard Esposito, Jack French and Pricilla Cote, who all live near DeVries Lumber & Building Supply, spoke to the board about their desire to be notified before major changes occur, such as demolition of a house. They would like to make sure there are sufficient regulations to control the look of the town and maintain property values. They were additionally concerned about losing the traditional and historic buildings of the town. Ms. Cote cited the fact that the old school house on Boardman St. was destroyed with no notice and tremendous history was lost.

C. Tomich requested time for the Board to review the text of the petition brought by the group. He explained that proposed changes to the bylaws would include a public hearing. He stated that the group is welcome to return to the next Planning Board meeting, but that the Board is obliged to conduct a scheduled public hearing at this time (7:15 pm) and has to postpone this conversation.

The group left the meeting.

At 7:15 pm, D. Smith made a motion to suspend the regular business meeting. His motion was seconded and approved.

At 8:33 pm, C. Tomich reopened the regular business meeting.

Discussion of DeVries neighbors' concerns: Members of the Board recognized that the Building Inspector is enforcing letter of the law. Members stated that DeVries is exercising a by-right use. Discussion focuses around the need to explain the process by

which aggrieved citizens can change the bylaws through by creating warrants for the town meeting. Nadia will work with Maggie and write down the procedure citizens can follow to propose new bylaws and will send to all members of the board.

D. Smith. Sr. reminded the Board that they need to get warrants ready for Town meeting in December.

Sign bylaw ready for May meeting: C. Tomich thought that the Board should adopt this as a goal.

BRPC's 5th Thurs dinner will be October 29th: D. Smith. Sr. will be out of town. Anyone can contact the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) at 413-442-1521 if they wish to attend.

A BRPC Memo on Statewide changes to laws relating to ethics, lobbying and campaign finance was distributed.

Board Deliberation of Grange sign Special Permit Application will occur on October 8th. P. Cherneff will not be here.

At 9:15 *T. Fulco made a motion to adjourn. His motion was seconded and approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

Nadia Milleron,
Secretary to the Planning Board