

**TOWN OF CHATHAM, ZONING IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Present were: Aven Kerr, Jean Rhode, Henry Swartz, Robert Walker, Don Hegeman and Tal Rappleyea.

A motion by Jean Rhode seconded by Robert Walker to accept the September 3rd meeting minutes was approved unanimously.

The Committee briefly discussed that Don Meltz will be attending the next meeting, October 1st with the final Ridgeline Overlay Protection maps.

The Committee continued its review of the working document and specifically the sign regulation portion of the zoning law. An in-depth review of the current Chatham sign law followed. Robert Walker suggested a change to allow signs on canopies as long as such signs complied with the remainder of the sign law. The committee agreed upon the following language to be inserted:

“Signs on canopies may be permitted as one of the onsite signs as such sign complies with the size and lighting requirements in this section.”

An extended discussion relating to political signs then occurred. Tal Rappleyea informed the committee that there have been several Supreme Court and other Federal cases which have clearly stated that regulation of political signs is unconstitutional because they attempt to regulate the content of the sign. Thus the committee agreed not to attempt to impose such regulations. Discussion was also had whether setbacks for signs from roadways would be appropriate. Ultimately the committee agreed that the current law as it relates to that issue was sufficient.

It was also noted that billboards are effectively eliminated by size restrictions in the current law which were deemed to be appropriate.

The committee next review animated, illustrated, and intermittent signs and agreed to modify the current law to reflect the following language:

“Signs which are animated, flashing or with intermittent illumination or messaging are permitted with a special use permit.”

The committee next reviewed several samples from nearby municipalities for additional requirements or ideas which might be appropriate and agreed to utilize two such sections from the Village of Castleton which shall be inserted and read as follows.

“No sign shall create a traffic or pedestrian hazard by reason of its shape, method and direction of illumination or location.”

“Signs shall not attempt or appear to regulate, warn or resemble official traffic signs, signals or devices.”

An extended discussion re: business complex directories followed and the committee agreed to leave the current law in Chatham as written.

The committee noted that JP Hinkle has regrettably resigned due to a scheduling conflict. It is the hope of the town board that another ZBA member will fill his position and if not, a request to the general public will be made for a further board member.

On a motion made by Robert Walker seconded by Aven Kerr the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.