

Minutes of the Porter Plan Commission

September 15, 2004

A. The meeting was called to order at 7:42 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call

Present: Mr. Bell, Mr. Eriksson, Mr. Liebert, Mrs. Snyder, Mr. Childress, Mr. Timm, and Mr. Babcock. Quorum was established. Also present were Mr. Mandon and Mr. Lyp.

D. Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2004 meeting as corrected made by Mr. Childress; second by Mr. Eriksson. Motion carried 7 – 0.

E. Audience Participation

None

F. Final Approvals

None

G. Preliminary Hearings

None

H. Public Hearings

None

I. Findings of Fact

None

J. Other Business

1. Draft Ordinance of commercial, recreational, construction vehicles and equipment in a residential zone.

Discussion among members and staff on first draft of ordinance covering review of current ordinance and the need for the recommended changes because the current ordinance has no regulations concerning non-required or extra parking.

Discussion included additions or amendments to the draft ordinance such as:

- * Amending existing enforcement section
- * Amend personal property other than lawn furniture (an exclusion list?)
- * Weight of passenger vehicles

Comment by Mr. Bell: We're not trying to run anyone out of town. We have a few habitual offenders and we want to make our Zoning Ordinance very clear and defined to be able to deal with these people. Comment by Mr. Babcock: We're trying to help their neighbors by getting people into compliance.

2. Discussion on amending Zoning Ordinance (ZO) re: required square footage in residential home construction.

Mr. Bell allowed comments from three audience members. Two were in favor of leaving the ZO as is; one would be in favor of a happy middle ground being found.

Discussion among members and staff on leaving the ZO as is or amending the square footage requirements lower, though not to pre-2003 levels.

Motion to leave 2003 ZO square footage requirements on new housing as is made by Mr. Eriksson; second by Mr. Timm.

Comment by Mrs. Snyder: Lowering the first floor square footage requirements on 2-story homes would be to our Town's benefit. Comment by Mr. Bell: The ZO can be amended any time if not recommended tonight.

Motion failed 2 – 5 with Mr. Childress, Mrs. Snyder, Mr. Timm, Mr. Liebert, and Mr. Babcock voting no.

Motion to amend the ZO to change the square footage requirements of the first floor of 2-story homes from 1200 feet to 1000 feet and direct the Town Planner to prepare a draft ordinance made by Mr. Liebert; second by Mr. Childress. Motion carried 5 – 2 with Mr. Bell and Mr. Eriksson voting no.

Amendment to ZO set for Public Hearing at the October 20, 2004 meeting.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Timm; second by Mr. Babcock. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Michael Liebert
Acting President

Lisa M. Liebert, Secretary