

**Town of Porter
Plan Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

- A. Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
Present: Mr. Albrecht-Mallinger, Ms. Madigan, Ms. Duffie, Mr. Stinson, Mr. Spanier, Mr. Craig, Mr. Eriksson
Also, Present Ms. Sufana, Ms. Frost, Mr. Barry, Mr. Mandon
- D. Quorum-There are enough present for a quorum.
- E. Board Appointments
Appointment of President-Mr. Mallinger made a motion to appointment Ms. Madigan as President, Mr. Eriksson seconded.
Motion passed 7-0 roll call vote

Appointment of Vice President-Mr. Stinson made a motion to appointment Mr. Mallinger as Vice-President, Ms. Duffie seconded.
Mr. Mallinger made a motion to appointment Mr. Stinson as Vice-President. Mr. Stinson declines the appointment.
Motion for Mr. Mallinger passed 7-0 roll call vote
Appointment of Secretary-Mr. Spanier made a motion to appointment Ms. Sufana as Secretary, Mr. Eriksson seconded.
Motion passed 7-0 roll call vote

BZA Appointment-Ms. Duffie made a motion to appoint Mr. Eriksson to the BZA, Mr. Spanier seconded.
Motion passed 7-0 roll call vote
- F. Consideration of Minutes from December 16, 2020 meeting
Mr. Mallinger would like to add the following two sentences to the minutes in section H third paragraph Mr. Malliger stated that he strongly disagrees that the proposed buildings are accessory buildings, they are the actual business buildings. If the setbacks for transitional uses are not truly clear, that is a matter to be clarified in the code, but

we should not misuse the concept of an accessory building to get around ambiguity or inappropriate choices for transitional setbacks.

Mr. Mallinger made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2020 with the changes stated above, Ms. Duffie seconded.

Motion approved 6-1 roll call vote. Mr. Stinson abstained as he was not on Commission then.

- G. Audience Participation-Jennifer Klug, 200 Franklin, would like to suggest putting the draft minutes on the Town website so residents can see what is going on being there is no more newspaper.

Ms. Duffie made a motion put a draft copy of meeting minutes on the town website within a week, Mr. Stinson seconded.

Motion passed 7-0 roll call vote

- H. Old Business-Updates to Sign Ordinance revised-Mr. Mallinger would like to acknowledge that Ms. Frost has incorporated all 5 items size of signs, flags, banners, flying banners, and different signs. Mr. Mallinger states there is a typo on page 1, Section 2 in paragraph should be Subsection 7.164. Mr. Mallinger what is maximum number of signs we would want and should we express that directly? Ms. Madigan also likes the specification of 36 square feet and she would like to see a limit on signs also. Ms. Duffie said she like 36 square feet also but does not think there should be a limit. Mr. Mallinger likes the input and moves to doing nothing with sign limits. Mr. Mallinger what are your thoughts about 6 months on abandoned houses/building with signs?

Mr. Stinson states that the last page needs to be edited to Greg Stinson Town Council President not William Lopez.

Ms. Duffie is there a limit on flags she could not find one? Mr. Mallinger states Porter code defines flags and how certain flags can not be regulated. Mr. Mallinger states that Ms. Frost defines what a flag is in this ordinance. You should not define a flag by what it says.

Mr. Craig comments that on page 2 section 184 like looks like we are defining flags twice. Ms. Madigan mentions that on line c we can take off flag and add sign. So, it would read feather or teardrop signs.

Ms. Madigan asks about Section 190 Section B #5. Are real estate signs taller than 4 feet? Mr. Eriksson asks about temporary signs on new business being over 4 feet tall.

Ms. Frost for clarity in residential it is 4 feet and non-residential it is 6 feet tall.

Ms. Madigan also asks about Section 190 Section B #3 and Section C #3 regarding window signs, she thought we were not regulating window signs.

Ms. Madigan comments we are not restricting based on content but on size, the number of them(eyesore), setbacks.

8-10 Feet is normal, except on Beam St, the houses are not 10 feet from sidewalk.

Ms. Madigan asks what Ms. Duffie is a good compromise? Ms. Duffie the code now reads under public expression signs does not say how you may have, unless it is

somewhere else in the code. It does limit open house signs but not happy birthday signs.

Mr. Spanier and Mr. Mallinger are ok to move on with it as written.

Ms. Frost goes over the above changes for clarification.

Mr. Barry would like to edit the Abandonment (F)-you cannot exclude a realtor's sign and make it illegal after 6 months. Ms. Frost states it is a judgment call if you take out the time limit. After some discussion they are leaving it the way it is.

Mr. Craig asks if we decided to change setback 10 feet? After some discussion, Ms. Madigan states that on a corner lot 10 feet of right of way has to be 2 feet or shorter.

Ms. Madigan asks Ms. Frost what next step is. Ms. Frost states that she will have to get you a revised draft and then decide whether to set to public hearing or wait to we look it over.

Mr. Craig made a motion to set the revised Sign Ordinance to Public Hearing at next meeting with Mr. Barry doing the publications, Mr. Mallinger seconded.
Motion passed 7-0 roll call vote

Updates on Comprehensive Plan-Ms. Madigan comments that everyone should have received Mr. Mandon's updates to plan still waiting on some maps. She would like to talk about anyone who has the time and wants to compare the old plan to the updated one, maybe three of us and divided it up. Mr. Mandon states the biggest change expectation for future growth and population. Mr. Mandon comments what mostly is done is the factual information and discussion of it. Mr. Barry states we had to change engineers so he will have the maps shortly. Mr. Mallinger will be happy to help with the feedback.

Ms. Madigan comments we should get a list of stakeholders for getting the plan out to the residents for input. Ms. Duffie has offered to work on that list.

Ms. Madigan states she would like to do more that just post in the newspaper. Mr. Mallinger has set up a temporary survey for everyone to view. Lorelei Weimer from Indiana Dunes Tourism is going to help with the survey. Mr. Barry states that the new Town website should be up and running in about three weeks and we will be able to put a link on there for Comprehensive plan.

- I. Site Plan Approval-NONE
- J. Preliminary Hearing-NONE
- K. Public Hearing- NONE

L. Findings of Fact-NONE

M. Other Business-
Update from Town Council-NONE

Update from Attorney-NONE

Board Comments- NONE

N. Adjournment-Mr. Craig made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Mallinger seconded.
Motion passed 7-0 roll call vote

The next regular meeting will be on February 17, 2021.

Laura Madigan, President

Rob Albrecht-Mallinger, Vice-President

James Spanier, Police Chief

Lewis Craig, Fire Chief

Greg Stinson

James Eriksson
James Eriksson

Tara Duffie

Tammie Sufana, Secretary