

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Via Zoom

October 11, 2021 – 5 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823

www.bellefonte.net

CALL TO ORDER:

The October 11, 2021 meeting of the Bellefonte Borough Planning Commission was called to order by Chair Robert Dannaker at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Dannaker, Chair
James Mills, Secretary
Mark Edwards
David Lomison

ABSENT: Dallas Gallo

STAFF MEMBERS: Gina Thompson, Zoning Administrator

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Lomison moved to approve the August 8, 2021 meeting minutes. Mr. Mills seconded. Motion carried.

PLANNING and ZONING ISSUES: Nothing presented.

LAND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Short Term Rental Ordinance – The facilitators for Strategic Consulting Partners and Ms. Thompson met with the ad hoc Stakeholder Committee on October 6 from 1-4:30 p.m. in council chambers. While the meeting was productive, it was decided that another meeting is needed to continue to work through some of the issues surrounding short-term rentals in the borough. Ms. Thompson discussed the various points of view from rental owners and business owners in the borough. The ad hoc committee will meet once more and give a report to Council. Another public hearing may be possible. The ad hoc committee is not making any physical changes to the current draft ordinance and applications coming in for rentals need to be approved under the current ordinance on the books.

Complete Streets Policy – No update at this time.

Updated Draft Sign Ordinance (draft) – Review (NO ACTION REQUIRED)

Ms. Thompson stated that she received feedback from Jennilyn Shuster, Main Street Manager at Downtown Bellefonte Inc. Many businesses prefer to have feather signs, as they feel it increases traffic to their business. HARB would like the feather signs banned in the historic district. DBI would not be in favor of them being banned in the historic district. Thompson offered that more time is needed to gather business input and opined that it is challenging to create a “user friendly” version of the draft for business owners to look at and comment on.

Temporary signs are intended for special events, and that is how the current ordinance is written. Since businesses are using feather signs on a more permanent basis, that needs to be addressed in the new ordinance. Regarding feather signs in the borough, making them permanent and having restrictions is a consideration. Definitions for various signs are complicated to understand. The ordinance needs visual definitions of the different types of signs. A visual design guide is an option.

Scrolling digital signs were discussed briefly. Yard sale signs were discussed.

Size requirement for signs needs to be more clearly explained. Enforcement was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing presented.

INFORMATION ITEMS: The waterfront and Gamble Mill were discussed briefly. Code feedback from business owners was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Mills moved to adjourn. Mr. Edwards seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.