

**BELLEFONTE BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Via Zoom

January 10, 2022 – 5 p.m.

236 West Lamb Street, Bellefonte, PA 16823

www.bellefonte.net

CALL TO ORDER:

The January 10, 2022, 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
Dallas Gallo
David Lomison

STAFF MEMBERS:

Gina Thompson, Zoning Administrator

GUESTS:

Randy Brachbill
Joanne Tosti-Vasey

REORGANIZATION:

- Mr. Edwards moved to nominate and appoint Mr. Dannaker as Chair. Mr. Lomison seconded. Motion carried.
- Mr. Edwards moved to nominate and appoint Mr. Mills as Vice-Chair. Mr. Lomison seconded. Motion carried.

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

PLANNING and ZONING ISSUES: Nothing presented.

LAND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES: Nothing presented.

INFORMATION ITEMS: Ms. Thompson updated PC members on the Council reorganization meeting. Mr. Lomison was reappointed to the commission.

OLD BUSINESS:

Short Term Rental Ordinance - Stakeholder committee has completed their work. No formal presentation was given to Council at the end of 2021 due to the Council turnover. There will be a

work session scheduled and Council will be updated on this ordinance at that time. Considerations for Council were discussed. The project was productive all in all.

Draft Sign Ordinance - The draft ordinance was presented to PC for final review. Business owner feedback was discussed. Ms. Thompson did not receive a lot of feedback on the feather signs. Several emails were sent to the chamber and DBI. She received responses from Verizon and Tri Yoga. They wished to continue to allow for the feather signs. Ms. Thompson provided photographs of feather signs she found around town. Feather signs in the public right of way was discussed. The issue of using the flags and taking them down after closing in the evening was discussed as an option.

As currently written, the feather signs are not permitted. The concern was multiple signs. The gas station was discussed, and the multiple signs located at that location. The permissible square footage of signage was discussed. The signs in the right of way may create a safety hazard. Limits to size could be a consideration.

The feather signs typically are not permitted in historic districts. Ms. Thompson stated that in working with the downtown business owners with DBI she opined that they do not want to feel slighted or picked on. There is so much going on in town that affects, them, i.e., parking, etc. The permission of feather signs may be a judgment call for PC.

The design guidelines and the ordinance seem to be out of line regarding how long the feather signs would be permitted, i.e., 30 days. Billboards were discussed briefly. The special event clause in the ordinance was discussed by Ms. Thompson. If the feather signs were to be permitted, they would go under temporary signs with a special provision if they were permitted to be up all the time. Banner signs were discussed.

Feather signs blocking other business signs was discussed. This blocking would not be permitted in the draft ordinance. Restriction of the length of the feather sign was discussed.

HARB's consideration of only allowing the feather signs for special events was discussed briefly.

PC members concurred that feather signs shall be permitted if the business owner takes the feather signs down in the evening when they close. Height would be limited, and number of signs would be limited to one per store front. Although HARB and PC may have different thoughts about the feather signs, Council will ultimately approve or disapprove them.

Complete Streets - No update. Ongoing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration for PC to hold meetings in person – PC will decide in the future prior to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lomison moved to adjourn. Mr. Edwards seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.