

Burton Village

Joint Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Mayor Koster called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Roll Call:

Planning Commission: Jim Koster – yes; Tom Blair – yes (arrived at 7:49 pm); Curt Johnson – yes (arrived at 7:49 pm); Karolyn Squire – yes (arrived at 7:07 pm)

Board of Zoning Appeals: Paul Emch – no; Judy Beaumier – yes; AJ Bissell – yes; Sharon Moster – yes; Al Tolchinsky – no.

Visitors: Skip Boehnlein, council rep; Rick Gruber, Joe Hernandez, Anne Wishart, Lisa Hernandez

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Koster opened the meeting with an update on the Berkshire School District consolidation meeting. When Ms. Beaumier asked for clarification on who made up the group that is meeting, Mayor Koster answered that it is made up of community members. Ms. Moster asked why there would be a need for a new school building if no merger takes place. Mayor Koster replied that the present buildings are old, and severely outdated.

Mayor Koster then spoke briefly about the listed agenda items including: the need to enforce zoning; property maintenance; whether or not the boundaries of the Historic District should be redefined; and the future existence of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mayor Koster expressed the importance of setting policies in place, as well as having the ability to enforce them in the future. One example given revolved around property management, and what the current guidelines and legal remedies are. Ms. Squire suggested that the Village may not wish to spend funds to pursue prosecution of individuals who are repeat violators when no action will be forthcoming, based on past behavior. Mayor Koster agreed with Ms. Squire that pursuing legal remedies should be done sparingly, since the Village does not have access to free legal representation. Ms. Moster suggested imposing fines that might then be added to the utility bill.

Ms. Squire asked if Mayor Koster had specific issues he wished to pursue, since many of these topics have been previously addressed with the group. Mayor Koster did have specific items to address, but was also seeking input from the group. Mayor Koster agreed that it was time to act on these previously discussed issues, perhaps with enacting an administrative code.

Ms. Squire felt that some issues arose due to a general lack of knowledge of the ordinances by residents, and felt that there are several avenues available that can be used to inform the public.

Mayor Koster asked the group to devise a set of guidelines to follow regarding these issues and others. Ms. Moster felt a brainstorming-type session would be beneficial, and that meeting regularly and consistently was imperative.

Discussion then moved to the possibility of combining the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Copies of the proposed ordinance combining the two groups will be distributed to the group for further consideration.

It was ultimately decided that everyone present would compile a list of 3 or 4 issues they felt were the most crucial. These issues would be looked at in greater detail at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Moster to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2017 Board of Zoning Appeals meeting; seconded by Mr. Bissell. By voice vote, the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mayor Koster to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2017 Planning Commission meeting; seconded by Mr. Blair. By voice vote, the motion passed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Squire; seconded by Ms. Moster. By voice vote the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Mayor

BZA President

Clerk