Town of Grantham-Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2009
[APPROVED]

Carl Hanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Grantham Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH. Chair Hanson appointed B. Barnes as the voting member for tonight's meeting.

Present: Carl Hanson, Chairman
Charles McCarthy, Vice Chair
Alden H. Pillsbury
Karen Ryan.
Bob Barnes, Alt.
Larry Fuller, Alt.
Several Members of the Public

Absent: Warren Kimball, Selectmen's Rep.
Jessica Smith, Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

C. Hanson stated that clerk J. Smith was absent due to an illness and that M. Menard was taking her place this evening, and that the Board members had not received a copy of the December 2008 minutes in their monthly packets so the approval of them would have to take place at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

C. Hanson informs the members about an upcoming NH Office of Energy & Planning Conference to take place on May 2, 2009, if anyone is interested in attending please see the Town Administrator, Tina Stearns as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

Merger/Annexation: Eastman/Greensward Section 6 Tax Map: 234 Lots 059-060

Present: Barry Shailer –Written Notice of absence

C. Hanson confirms that everyone has a copy of the application and states that he has received a note from the town administrator Tina Stearns stating that the applicant is unable to attend the meeting.

C. McCarthy clarifies that this is from a tax sale. C. Hanson appoints B. Barnes a voting member for tonight's meeting and L. Fuller as his alternate. C. Hanson asks if there are any questions regarding the Merger/Annexation application.

There being none, C. Hanson entertained the motion to approve the Merger/Annexation Application as submitted. Motioned by; C. McCarthy, seconded by K. Ryan.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

C. Hanson stated that he would have to step down because of conflict of interest with reasons that he had represented Brian Jensen in the past. C. Hanson then appointed Vice Chair C. McCarthy to go forward with these applications.

Site Plan Review: Sawyer Brook Plaza Tax Map 233 Lot 026
Present: Brian & Cindy Jensen

C. McCarthy asks Brian & Cindy Jenson for a brief explanation of their application. Brian Jenson explains that it is a full retail, full services flooring store.

C. McCarthy asked what the hours of operation will be, Brian explains that the store will be open Monday -Friday 9am-5pm and Saturdays 9am-2pm and that he see's 2-3 people at the most during the day.

L. Fuller inquires about his previous location in New London. Brian explains that even with all the advertisements, the general public still did not notice that he was located in New London; he is hoping that this new location will be a better fit for his business.

C. McCarthy entertained the motion to approve the Site Plan Review Application as submitted. Motioned by; A. Pillsbury, seconded by K. Ryan.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Sign Permit Application: Sawyer Brook Plaza Tax Map 233 Lot 026
Present: Brian & Cindy Jensen

A. Beaulieu asked the Board if Jensen is going before the Board tonight, how come he has had his sign up for the last two weeks. A. Pillsbury asked if anyone has issued a complaint regarding the signage. A. Beaulieu states that she e-mailed C. Hanson because she had past issues with signage before, and she was served papers by the police from the Town stating that she would be fined $175.00 per day for each day her sign was up, plus any legal fees.

C. McCarthy states that they are addressing the sign permit application tonight. Jensen apologizes as he was under the impression that as long as he had the Sign Permit application submitted that he could have the sign up prior to the meeting.

K. Ryan commented to the Jensens that they should not have put their sign up prior to receiving the Planning Board's permission. Mr. Jensen replied that he thought it was okay to do so as long as the sign met the requirements. K. Ryan said it was not.

C. McCarthy asks if anyone had any further questions regarding the Sign Permit Application. A. Beaulieu inquires about the lighting above the sign, which faces the sign. Jensen confirms that there is a light above the sign and that light is on a timer.

L. Fuller addresses A. Beaulieu's concern regarding the sign lighting policy. C. McCarthy believes that the light is not considered designed for signage, but for security purposes.

C. McCarthy entertained the motion to approve the Sign Plan Review Application as submitted. Motioned by; A. Pillsbury, seconded by K. Ryan.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

C. Hanson stated that he would have to step down for the next two applications as he is an abutter. C. Hanson appointed Vice Chair C. McCarthy to go forward with these applications.

Site Plan Review: Rt. 10 South Grantham, Tax Map 233 Lot 092
Present: Jessica Bitler & Angi Beaulieu

C. McCarthy requested a brief description of their business. J. Bitler explains that she wants to run a part-time business for Kitchens, bath, flooring and design and build cabinetry and countertops.

A. Beaulieu confirms to C. McCarthy that there are no external changes to the building and that they may see 2-3 customers a day.

C. McCarthy entertained the motion to approve the Site Plan Review Application as submitted. Motioned by; L. Fuller, seconded by A. Pillsbury.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Sign Permit Application: Rt. 10 South Grantham, Tax Map 233 Lot 092
Present: Jessica Bitler & Angi Beaulieu

C. McCarthy asked A. Beaulieu about her additional sign on the side of the building. A. Beaulieu explained that because she received no response through her e-mail regarding the unapproved sign at Brian's Carpet & Flooring, her husband put up a sign they had made in the past for the side of the building and had been asked to remove it due to zoning regulations. A. Beaulieu is concerned that the signage policy should be the same for everyone all the time.

L. Fuller asks if this sign is conforming up there in size. A. Beaulieu confirms that she is approved for signage exactly as it was prior to her business, one sign on top of the building and a smaller sign hanging off of the porch.

A. Beaulieu addresses her request to add Greenwood's Kitchen and Bath to her currently approved signage. There will be no changes in the size of her sign.

C. McCarthy entertained the motion to approve the Sign Plan Review Application as submitted. Motioned by; A. Pillsbury, seconded by L. Fuller.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

OLD BUSINESS

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

With no further business before the Board, C. Hanson said he would entertain a motion to Adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by C. McCarthy; seconded by B. Barnes. The Planning Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:30p.m. The next meeting of the Planning Board will be held on April 3, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica M. Smith
Jessica M. Smith, Clerk