

**APPROVED**

**Town of Grantham-Planning Board  
Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2012**

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Carl Hanson, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Downstairs Large Meeting Room, Grantham Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH.

Present: Carl Hanson, Chair; Charles McCarthy, Vice Chair; Alden H. Pillsbury; Karen Ryan; Ken Story, Selectmen's Rep; Jessica Smith, Clerk

Public Attendance: Several members of the public.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

C. Hanson asked if there were any corrections to the December 1, 2011 meeting minutes. With no corrections requested, *a motion was made by A. Pillsbury to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by C. McCarthy.*

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Merger/Annexation Application:

**Oliver & Anne Hoen; Tax Map 213 Lot 007 & Tax Map 216 Lot 214-Eastman  
Anderson Pond Road Section 1**

Chair Hanson asked the board if they had any questions for the Hoens regarding the Merger/Annexation Application. C. McCarthy confirmed that there was a house on one of the lots. C. Hanson stated that the Hoens have provided the Board with a copy of the deeds and a completed application. C. Hanson asked if there were any further questions regarding the application.

With no further questions, *a motion was made by C. McCarthy to approve the Merger/Annexation Application for Tax Map 213 Lot 007 & Tax Map 216 Lot 214; seconded by K. Ryan.*

**UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

*Proposed Amendments to the Grantham Zoning Ordinance*

C. Hanson announced opening of the Public Hearing for the Petitioned Proposed Amendments to the Grantham Zoning Ordinance to permit sandwich board signs in the Business and light Industrial District. C. Hanson introduced K. Osgood as the petitioner for the proposed amendment. K. Osgood explained that her motivation behind the proposed amendment was that being a small business owner in a small town the biggest challenge has been getting people to come into your place of business. K. Osgood explained that if you are in a mall or plaza and have daily foot traffic than you don't have this challenge. However, many of our small businesses are on route 10, where people are en-route back and forth to work. As business owners in Grantham we need a way to draw people in, and sandwich board signs are a great way to draw people in and as a consumer; if Dunkin Donuts wants to run a \$0.99 special on a coffee and a doughnut; I want to know this.

K. Osgood explained that having so many empty store fronts in Grantham, just doesn't look good for anyone. Let's support our local businesses; let them advertise and we as consumer's can pick up on some great deals.

C. Hanson explained that he was opening up the discussion to the public first and then he would open the discussion up to the board members afterwards.

Sara Carr (65 Roses) stated that she had put up a sandwich board sign up previously as she was told that she could as long as she put it down at night. S. Carr expressed how important it is for businesses to be able to put these signs up to advertise specials, placing them out by the road where people can see it helps bring consumers into the businesses.

Mike Clavin (Rumbrook Market) expressed that businesses that are not visible from the highway could benefit draw in more business with the use of a sandwich board advertising specials and sales. M. Clavin stated that as a business owner in Grantham he would abide by any restrictions that would be set for the use of sandwich board signs i.e.: putting down at night, maintaining signs appearance, and size criteria.

With no further concerns or discussion from the public, C. Hanson opened discussion up to the Board members.

C. McCarthy stated that he first wanted to start out by stating; he is not against nor opposing the concept for the sandwich board signs. C. McCarthy explained that after reading the petition that he received via e-mail it appears to be a wide open request with no restrictions, more like a blank check.

C. McCarthy expressed his concern that this proposed amendment should have some definite regulations put in place, so everyone will know what the score is before they start the game.

Paul Osgood explained that the signs are really for retail purposes only. C. McCarthy explained that if the sandwich board signs are for retail only then the proposed amendment should state that.

Kelly Spiller stated that if there were specific guidelines and limitations set forth for the sandwich board signs that explained size, number of days, restricted to a

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certain cause for use without abusing it. K. Spiller stated that if everything was clearly written out, she believed that all the businesses would be happy to abide by the regulations set forth.

C. McCarthy agreed; he expressed that the proposed amendment in front of him shows no clear restrictions or directions. A Pillsbury expressed his concern regarding “over regulating” the businesses in town, and suggested giving this proposed amendment a try and see where it goes. If it does not work out, we can always go back and make changes.

K. Osgood explained that she copied the sandwich board ordinances from the town of Newport and she does not feel that they are over run with sandwich board signs.

C. Hanson stated that he too feels that this proposed amendment does not set any limits, after reading the ordinance it states to permit sandwich boards in the business and light industrial districts. So in essence the Pizza place could have 18 sandwich board signs, up and down the road.

K. Osgood questioned the wording of the proposed amendment as she was positive that it did state only one sandwich board would be allowed. K. Story interjected and confirmed that the proposed amendment does clearly state “only one such sign shall be allowed in front of each business establishment.” C. Hanson and C. McCarthy stated that they were not given the complete text of the proposed amendment. K. Story shared his copy of the proposed amendment and petition with the Board members.

C. Hanson and C. McCarthy both stated that the complete text of the proposed amendment answered all their concerns. K. Ryan asked where it would fit in under the general provisions of signs; how signs should be maintained. C. Hanson agreed but stated he was not exactly sure where it fit into the Zoning Ordinance.

C. Hanson explained that the Planning Board would need to vote at this point whether or not they recommend the adoption of the Zoning Amendment and that position of the Planning Board will be reflected on the ballot when this is voted for on Town Meeting Day in March.

C. Hanson asked the Board to vote whether they recommend or not recommend the adoption of the proposed amendment.

***The Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend the adoption of the proposed amendment.***

**ADJOURNMENT**

***With no further business before the Board, a motion was made by K. Story to adjourn and seconded by C. McCarthy.***

***The Planning Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:35pm.***

The next meeting of the Planning Board will be held on February 2, 2012 at 7pm in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Smith  
Planning Board Clerk