

## Comprehensive Planning Committee Minutes 5/25/23

*Meeting starts:* 6:30pm. Minutes taken by Rich Azoff

*Members present:* Josepha Gutelius, Lauren Marcello Ruberg, Rich Azoff, Sam Dederick, Bob Dederick, Aden Hughes, Susan Weeks

*Also present:* Leeanne Thornton, Adriana Beltrani,

*Absent:* Carole Ann Mayone

Accept minutes from April 2023.

*Town Board Report:* Leeanne Thornton

- There was a public hearing on the proposed sign law. Another is scheduled.
- Street sweeping is complete. Highway department is in “full swing” with road paving.
- Leeanne attended an Ulster County Transportation Council meeting. Warning was issued that some funding cuts may occur in the future.
- Police officer Jennifer Gambino was promoted to Sergeant
- Pickleball courts will be finished by the end of June
- Animal shelter gala was well-attended but fell short of fund-raising goal
- Boys/Girls Club fundraiser did very well.
- Library Board of Trustees has two openings.
- Renovation is occurring at Opus 40

*Business*

1. The proposed Lodging and Events regulations that had been summarized in a memo by Adriana were reviewed. These were approved unanimously by the committee.
2. Discussion of the proposed changes to the sign law.
  - Josepha stated that the law with regards to temporary signs was insufficient and unenforceable. She suggested that temporary sign use require a deposit and that the number and

time usage should be limited, In particular the gateway district is cluttered with them.

- The issue of illumination was extensively discussed. There are “dark sky” guidelines that the committee felt should be included in the law.
- The above two issues as well as inconsistencies created by the proposed changes to the law were areas that need further research and attention. A concern was expressed that the timeline the Town Board was obliged to follow as a result of the public hearing schedule did not allow sufficient time to carefully review/revise/research this important law.

As a result, the CPC felt that a letter should be drafted to the Town Board outlining these concerns and asking that they be addressed. Josepha, Richard and Adriana drafted the letter at the end of the meeting, and it was unanimously approved by all attending members. It was sent to Leeanne and then to the members of the TB. The letter is attached here.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted: Richard Azoff

May 25, 2023

Dear Town Board:

We members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee have some concerns about the approach to amending the Town Sign Law.

We feel the proposed changes, as well as the existing law, have sections that are inconsistent and unenforceable, and would benefit from a thorough review.

For example: it appears that the existing Temporary Signs regulations are unenforceable. The CPC has been considering ways to improve the enforceability of this section without burdening enforcement officials.

Another example: Section C7 regulating illuminated signs may benefit from clearer definition relating to internal versus externally lit signs and the use of fully-shielded and cut-off lights. We recognize that vaguely worded or discretionary language — such as the existing language in this section — puts a burden on enforcement officials in issuing sign permits.

In conclusion, we feel that there are areas in the Sign Law that require serious attention, and offer to provide recommendations to the Town Board, given the time to do so.

Sincerely,

Saugerties Comprehensive Plan Committee