

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Ordinance Committee Minutes**

October 10, 2013

8:00 a.m., Town Hall

Present: Kathy Ray, Chair
Jessica Sullivan
David Sherman

Staff: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

The minutes of the previous meeting were amended to show that information from the Town of Cornish was requested by Mrs. Sullivan, not Mrs. Ray.

Public Comment

Lee Wilson, Two Lights Rd - She has no comment but is interested in the proceedings.

Sandwich Board Sign Ordinance Amendment

Mr. Sherman said that there are not a lot of businesses in Cape and he is ok with multiple signs on businesses in business districts and thinks it is proper for the Code Enforcement Officer to supervise signage. We can always change the Sign Ordinance if problems arise.

Mr. Sherman reviewed the maximum height and sign size limits proposed. He was ok with increasing the maximum size per side from 8 sq. ft. to 12 -16 sq. ft. There was general agreement for a 4' x 3' size limit, 4' high, for 12 sq. ft. limit.

Mrs. Ray does not want a sign placed on the sidewalk. Mr. Sherman concurred. Mrs. Ray noted the hazard to vision impaired folks.

Mrs. Sullivan asked if a limit from the front door of 10' to 15' could be considered. The committee noted that The Good Table has a sandwich board sign and could not meet such a standard. Mrs. Ray asked Mrs. Wilson if she brings in her sign every night and Mrs. Wilson said she does because the first sign was stolen when it was left outside. The committee agreed not to add a maximum distance from the door requirement.

The committee discussed paragraph #6 regulating sign appearance. Mr. Sherman was concerned with how to legislate appearance. Some signs may not be

attractive, but he is concerned with how a standard could be enforced. Mrs. Sullivan suggested that people do not intentionally put up an ugly sign. Mrs. Ray was not sure how the requirement that the sign “complement” the building architecture would be applied. All agreed to eliminate the aesthetic requirements.

The committee agreed to prohibit lighting, to require a fee and to eliminate the limit on the duration of the permit.

Mr. Sherman made a motion to refer the proposed sign amendments, with revisions discussed at this meeting, to the Town Council. Mrs. Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. O’Meara will make the requested changes and send the final draft to the entire committee and request approval from Ordinance Committee Chair Ray.

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Mr. Sherman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Sullivan. The motion passed unanimously.

No future meeting was scheduled at this time.