

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Ordinance Committee Minutes**

January 16, 2015

9:15 a.m., Town Hall

Present: Jamie Wagner, Chair
 Caitlin Jordan
 Jessica Sullivan

Staff: Maureen O'Meara

The minutes of the September 19, 2015 minutes were approved.

Public Comment

No member of the public was in attendance.

Committee Logistics

The committee discussed what time during the day to meet. Councilors Wagner and Sullivan did not want to add another night meeting to their schedule. Councilor Jordan did not want to meet during the day. Committee members shared their schedule limitations and agreed to meet at 9:15 a.m.

The committee agreed to keep the procedure where staff would prepare the minutes for the committee to review.

The committee reviewed draft goals to 1) review referrals from the town council, and 2) undertake a comprehensive update of town ordinances. The committee reviewed a list of town ordinances with their most recent amendment date.

Councilor Sullivan noted that many of the ordinances have been reviewed fairly recently. It may not make sense to spend time reviewing an ordinance that has recently been reviewed.

Councilor Wagner noted that in his initial review, no ordinance appeared pressing for update. We do have our first goal and we know that ordinance amendments are coming. He offered to consult Councilor Walsh about more guidance on the overall review of ordinances.

Councilor Jordan suggested a subcommittee may be needed.

Councilor Wagner agreed with Councilor Sullivan that we have more pressing work.

Political Signs

Councilor Wagner referred to the letter from the town attorney and summarized that we cannot regulate political signs more strictly than other types of signs. We prohibit political signs in traffic islands but allow other types of signs.

Councilor Sullivan referenced the pan-handling issue in Portland and the public safety concerns. She agreed we should take an all or nothing approach.

Councilor Jordan said if we prohibit all signs, then there should be a reasonable government issue with traffic island signs. The committee reviewed the 5 traffic islands in town.

The committee reviewed the time, manner and place restrictions for political signs and noted they could be challenged.

Councilor Jordan disclosed that Alewife's Brook Farm business has a sign. Councilor Wagner noted that other farms have signs and that there are no complaints.

Councilor Jordan noted that if there is no sign on a traffic island, there are still signs in the right-of-way. Councilor Sullivan said there would be a lot of impacts to business owners if we do not allow signs in the right-of-way.

Councilor Wagner suggested allowing political signs in traffic islands during the election period.

The committee reviewed the sign ordinance text, confirmed limitations on size of signs and agreed to move the polling place sign text to the end of the paragraph.

Councilor Jordan moved a recommendation to the Town Council to strike the prohibition on political signs in traffic islands and to move polling place signs to the end of the paragraph. Councilor Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Public Comment

No member of the public was in attendance.

Next Meeting

The committee agreed to schedule a meeting once the town council made a referral to them.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.