

A regular meeting of the Planning Board of the Village of Cooperstown was held in the Village Office Building, 22 Main Street, Cooperstown, New York on January 20, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. Members in attendance were Chair – Eugene Berman, Chuck Knull, Paul Kuhn, and Richard Sternberg. Member Richard Blabey was absent. Zoning Enforcement Officer – Tavis Austin and Deputy Village Clerk – Jennifer Truax were also present. There were ten members of the public present.

Mr. Berman called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

### **Regular Agenda**

#### **50 Main Street (Will Green) – proposed wall and projecting signs**

Mr. Austin reviewed the application stating that both of the signs are within the parameters of the law. He stated that the Planning Board needs to review the sign design/colors and the placement.

Mr. Kuhn inquired concerning the colors of the previously approved “Food Truck” business located in the same building.

Mr. Austin provided a copy of the previously approved “Food Truck” sign indicating that the sign is black and white with some yellow and red.

Mr. Kuhn asked if the projecting sign met the required 8 foot clearance.

Mr. Austin stated it is close but may be slightly less than 8 feet. He further stated that like the projecting sign approved for the “Food Truck,” the new sign would be installed over the railing which inhibits pedestrians from passing under the sign.

Mr. Sternberg made a motion to approve both the projecting and wall signs for 50 Main Street as submitted. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Berman, Knull, Kuhn, Sternberg                      Motion carried.

#### **1 Atwell Road (Russell Tilley for Bassett Medical Center) – proposed re-facing of campus signs**

Mr. Austin reviewed the application stating that it is a unique request in that 95% of the signs already exist and will be refaced. He pointed out three new signs for the emergency room, clinic building and main hospital building.

Mr. Kuhn stated that the proposed signs are more visible than the current signs.

Mr. Tilley stated that the proposed signs are intended to help direct patients and visitors to their destinations and improve safety by helping to direct patients, such as expectant mothers, to the emergency services.

Mr. Berman asked if he understood that the new signage is required by code.

Mr. Tilley stated that New York State Department of Health has regulations regarding signage for medical facilities that they are required to follow to help with patient and visitor safety.

Mr. Austin stated that although there are regulations and recommendations regarding signage not all medical facilities may have to follow the same regulations as Bassett Medical Center. He explained that the hospital classification, such as Bassett's as a trauma center, may affect the required sign plan.

The board reviewed the sign designs and lighting for all signs, including the parking lot signs, and the new signs for the emergency room, clinic, main hospital and outpatient psychiatry.

Mr. Berman asked where the LED lights for the emergency room sign would be located.

Mr. Tilley stated that they would be behind the sign face.

Mr. Sternberg made a motion to approve the reface of the existing sign and installation of new signs for Bassett Medical Center campus as submitted. Mr. Knull seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Berman, Knull, Kuhn, Sternberg                      Motion carried.

### **Review of Sign Law as requested by the BOT**

The board discussed the referral from the BOT and noted that the sign law was just completely reviewed and rewritten. Members stated that great effort had been taken to make the law concise and effective. They further stated that without a more detailed directive from the BOT they did not know why the sign law needs review at this time.

Mr. Berman adjourned the discussion regarding the sign law until further clarification can be obtained from the BOT.

### **Review of Vending Law as requested by the BOT**

Mr. Berman provided the members of the Planning Board with two handouts regarding the vending law. He explained that he believes that the BOT is looking to obtain a more unified look for venders.

Mr. Knull stated that the handouts provided are more fitting to the Village's situation than the previously suggested and reviewed vending law.

Mr. Austin stated that areas for vending would need to be pre-established. He stated that based on the proposed law there is nothing to prohibit one party from purchasing all available vending spaces in order to inhibit other venders.

Mr. Kuhn stated that it would make sense to give store owners preference in vending in front of their establishment but the proposed law does not seem to allow for that.

Mr. Austin pointed out that there is no designated vending space size. He stated that it would be impossible to enforce or decipher arguments over designated spaces if no two spaces are required to comply to a specific size.

Mr. Sternberg stated that all vending spaces should be assigned by the Village Office but that it seems only fair that the property or business owner whose business is located behind the vending space be given first right of refusal. He further stated that should the business choose not to obtain and pay for said space it should be made available to other interested parties.

Mr. Knull stated that it might be more beneficial to close the streets to traffic during events where vending is permitted, assign vending spaces in the parking areas and leave the sidewalks open for business access and a pedestrian walkway, similar to the street fairs in NYC.

The board discussed the purpose of vending for the village and whether the law is intended to regulate the look of the village and continue to allow vending only on special event weekends, if it was intended to open vending up year round, if it was intended to increase revenue, and what would be required for different situations. The current law and process for applying for a special event vending permit was reviewed as well as how opening vending up year round would affect the character of the Village.

Mr. Knull left the meeting at 5:35 PM.

The board generally concurred that vending year round on Main Street is not favorable to the character of the Village but allowing vending in the Village parks such as Lakefront, 3-Mile and Fairy Spring would be a great opportunity. They concurred that set vending location should be established with specific guidelines on size and location. They further agreed that business owners should be given first opportunity to secure space outside their establishment when vending is permitted. The board also agreed that an old fashioned hotdog and/or ice cream vender would be a positive addition to the downtown area.

Mr. Berman stated that he would put the suggestions regarding vending into an informative document to be provided to the board of trustees. He further stated that he would circulate the document to the members of the Planning Board prior to submission to the BOT.

**Minutes:**

Mr. Sternberg made a motion to accept the December 16, 2014 minutes as presented. Mr. Kuhn seconded the motion and a vote had the following results:

AYES: Berman, Kuhn, Sternberg                      Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Jennifer Truax  
Deputy Clerk