

## **MARSHVILLE PLANNING BOARD**

### **July 9, 2018 Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Chairwoman Susan Drake, Vice Chairman Fred Burton, Frances Griffin, Sue Helms, Rusty Johnson, and Brian Weber.

**Others present:** Blair Israel (Planning Advisor) and Amy Griffin (Planning Board Secretary).

**Absent:** Mark Traywick.

Chairwoman Susan Drake called the meeting to order. She informed the Board that Council decided not to renew their planning contract with Benchmark and then introduced Blair Israel as the new Planning Advisor. She then asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. Johnson provided invocation and everyone recited the Pledge.

Mr. Weber made a motion to approve the April 2018 and June 2018 Planning Board Minutes, Mr. Burton seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Jess Perry of 1061 Walkup Ave Monroe came before the Planning Board to discuss 314 Cross St for the property owner, Fern Shubert. Chairwoman Susan Drake said they were planning to discuss this topic after their follow up on the LED Text Amendment.

### **Follow Up Discussion on Text Amendment Regarding LED Sign after Council Meeting**

Chairwoman Susan Drake told the Board that Council decided any LED signs fronting 74 had to have messages five seconds or less and anywhere else in town had to be five seconds or more. Chairwoman Susan Drake was concerned if someone on 74 wanted to scroll less than 5 seconds, if our ordinance would infringe on their free speech. Planning Advisor Israel read the ordinance as it was written at the last council meeting. Planning Advisor Israel said he had not been able to locate an ordinance with a limit for the max time a message could be displayed. He understood safety issues if the message is too brief on the screen. He also believes putting a limit on the length a message can

Council was afraid there was a safety issue if drivers slowed down to read messages. Chairwoman Susan Drake suggested Planning Advisor Israel go before the Council before the public hearing is called for with the Board's concerns of infringement of free speech and ability to control their advertising. Planning Advisor Israel reminded them again there is often a minimum set, often for safety reasons, but not a maximum. Mr. Weber said he didn't seem a maximum time for a message was fair when you think businesses with regular signs have messages that never change.

It was also brought up that government signs are exempt. Chairwoman Susan Drake said the ordinance was not clear and the wording would need to be re-examined in the future. With that, both the school and the town can put their signs up. After some discussion, they decided to make a recommendation for the LED ordinance tonight. Brian Weber made the motion for the LED Sign ordinance to have a five second delay but no maximum on any LED sign town wide, Mr. Johnson seconded, and it passed unanimously.