

Jim Thorpe Planning Commission
April 17, 2018

Meeting called to order: 6:39 p.m.

Roll Call of members: Lou Hall, Joanne Klitsch, Jolene Evans, John McGuire, Joe Micko, Clem McGinley

Absent: Nancy Porambo

Visitors present: Jim Dougher (171 W. Broadway), Barry Andrews (77 W. Broadway), Rachel Miller (93 W. Broadway), and Jim Pompa (85 Broadway)

Approval of minutes: deferred to the end of the meeting, so that members can review them.

Hearing of visitors:

- Barry Andrews expressed concerns that he is unable to park near his home. There is a house at 66 W. Broadway with five apartments and the residents take up multiple spaces. Furthermore, they are moving in and out without permits.
- Jim Pompa noted that below the Opera House (Broadway) there are no parking spots available for residents. He was also concerned that, if we go to permit parking - where are visitors going to park?
- Rachel Miller is concerned about the parking availability but is okay with the draft of the Permit Parking Ordinance.
- Jim Dougher suggested speaking with Father Ward regarding erecting a parking garage on Church property. But this would need to be approved by the Diocese. The lower lot, next to Foster-Kmetz, would involve the Army Corps of Engineers, since it is over the Mauch Chunk Creek.
- Lou noted that the draft of the Permit Parking Ordinance is a work in progress – it is not the final product. Its purpose is to help the residents of W. Broadway with the parking problem. It will restrict parking to permit only on weekends and from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. on week days. A temporary permit will be available for residents to use for visitors.

The draft of the ordinance will be presented to Borough Council to review and offer suggestions. Also, there will be an opportunity for public input. Unfortunately, there is no way we can make everyone happy; the purpose is to help the resident of W. Broadway.

Further discussion of permit parking:

- John noted that we should meet with Chance, who is doing the NEPA traffic study, and get their recommendations. He will attempt to contact them.
- High Street will be included in the Permit Parking Ordinance and consider including Quarry Street.

County Plans for 76 Susquehanna Street:

- The County is planning a three-story prefab building – the first two floors will be for parking (102 + 3 extra spots) and the third will be office space with a court room.
- Concern was expressed regarding traffic flow from the parking area. John suggested that we make sure Penn DOT does a study regarding traffic flow.
- Initially, it was reported that the building would extend 50' back into the mountain: however, Joanne noted it was clarified that will not happen.
- There is some concern about how the construction will affect the structural stability of St. Mark's Church.

- The County is seeking a waiver of a “Preliminary Plan submission and review prior to the submission of the Final Plan; instead, to allow the concurrent submission and review of the plan as Preliminary/Final application in one process” (requested by McCarthy Engineering).

This was discussed: a motion was made by Clem, with John seconding, to deny the waiver request – all were in favor. Lou will send a letter to McCarthy informing them of the denial.

Ordinance X-2018 Zoning Ordinance amending the regulations for signs: A generic ordinance in this regard was obtained from Barry Issett. However, it is confusing and much is not applicable to JT. A committee, composed of Lou, Jolene and Nancy will meet at 8:30 on Sunday to review the suggested ordinance and compare it with the current zoning ordinance; the goal is to develop a new one that is more applicable for our Borough.

Status of previous meeting tasks:

- Re-addressing Eastern-side of Leisureland is completed. The next step is to notify the residents and set up a public meeting.
- Short-term Rentals: A meeting was to be held for 4/19 but needs to be rescheduled – date TBD.

Borough Park Planning Review, grant application:

- Joe noted that Deb Dobson (CLIU) is willing to help with handicap planning.
- He is checking with Marilyn Kessner regarding a grant from CCEDC.

Burn Ordinance: a copy of Weatherly’s Burn ordinance was sent to solicitor Nanovic for review.

Minutes of March 20, 2018: The minutes were approved with the following corrections:

- Page 1 – under County Plans for Susquehanna St.
 - paragraph 1, last sentence: “The building will be three stories, **the first and second for parking** and the third...”
 - paragraph 2, line 2: “...Borough **engineer** for approval.”
- Page 2 – paragraph 7 (clarification), “Kurt **Jackson** asked...”

Motion to adjourn: made by Joanne and seconded by Jolene at 7:43 p.m.