

Jim Thorpe Planning Commission
January 16, 2018

Meeting called to order: 6:35 p.m.

Members in attendance: Lou Hall, Joanne Klitsch, John McGuire, Clem McGinley, Joe Micko, Jolene Evans, Nancy Porambo

Visitors: Michael Rivkin, Andrew Roberts, Jake Arner

Motion to approve minutes of meeting, Jolene motioned, John seconded. A change was suggested on "temporary" permits to "permanent". Motion carried. Lou will send a corrected copy to Nancy as well as to Louise.

Visitors had no comments.

Readdressing: Lou made several suggestions for the group to meet. Group members are Joanne, Lou, Nancy, Jolene and Kyle Sheckler. Sunday morning was the suggested time and Joanne will be consulted to be sure we have driveways properly identified. February 4, 2018, 8:30 a.m. John will give key to Lou to open the building.

Downtown Parking: (West Broadway). Lou, referred to article 7, 5 and 4 in the ordinances. If we can find areas within all that we can incorporate, it would be easier to create a thorough document that blends all the areas so it's more productive.

Handicapped parking is an issue, we have limited spaces. Everyone uses handicapped stickers, it may cause some real issues with overuse. He suggests we stick with what's in the ordinance. Lou gave Clem copies of all the ordinances referring to parking so he can review.

Joe Micko stated residences request designated spots for handicapped in front of their properties, but someone visiting may park there.

Burn Ordinance: John said in 1978, this was addressed. We used to have something in zoning, we require a permit for burning. He suggests that we go by the state ordinance. It states that we don't do it at all. Leighton and Nesquehoning ordinances were reviewed. Weatherly will match it. The draft that John made up comes from the other towns and the one from Weatherly is included in the packet. You can have residential burning, none completely bans open burning. You need a permit, you should have a fire pit, 15' away from the house, 10' from neighbors, no commercial refuse. There will be time limits for burning set on this too.

This is not to be confused with outside ordinances. This ordinance idea is open for discussion. John indicated the Council will want to have this.

Lou suggested the ordinance be reviewed between now and next meeting and this will be decided at the next meeting.

VRBO's – Clem put together some things and suggested a committee so that work can begin. He suggested that we look at the B&B ordinance and blend them. We will work off the ordinance. The committee that will work together on this will be Clem, Lou and Michael Rivkin, & Joanne. Nancy will call Tom Highland to see if he is interested in joining the VRBO workgroup. January 30th at 6:30 p.m. will be held at the Borough Building.

John will be operated on February 1st and will be unavailable.

Wednesday, post January 1st. He asked that she address ordinance on Agrotourism, but she stated the agenda is closed. Jake is asking for the ability to raise more products in JT, he is looking for a 5 year waiver to start up farm to grow the majority of the grapes in JT. If not, he will have to find a facility outside JT. It would be better to have him grow in JT. Three to 4 years is what he will need. He highlighted the ordinance and he thought borough council would review it. This time of year, you order vines, plant in spring. If he waits, it puts it off another year. Lou stated this is borough Council work. Jake said we suggest it be brought forward.

Lou made a motion that Planning Commission gives the ok to move his request forward to Council provided he can bring forward information to show the length of time it takes to start growing grapes. Council should give direction to Jake on the issue he brought forth. Jolene seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn 7:40 p.m. by Lou and seconded by John. Motion carried.