

MIDDLEFIELD PLANNING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
2/5/2013

The meeting came to order at 6:42pm. Members present were Michael Hale, Alan Vint, Janine Savoy, Terry Crean and Maureen Sullivan.

An letter inviting Middlefield residents to an informational meeting re the proposed changes to the Use Tables and proposed bylaw changes was reviewed and edited.

It was reported that Larry Smith of the PVPC would be notifying the board soon about the status of the board's grant application for technical assistance on the creation of a Village Center District bylaw.

The minutes of the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were amended and approved.

The minutes of the January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting were amended and approved.

Alan Vint submitted an 80 word summary of the Use Table changes. He declined to read them at the meeting, but said that he would email them to each of the members for their review.

The Board discussed some of the potential concerns that residents may have with the proposed changes and it was reinforced that all of the Board's members need to be well versed in the specifics of the proposed changes. More than one member said they felt the changes would be well received and that enabling greater zoning code enforcement would not necessarily be seen as a bad thing.

It was suggested that the Building Commissioner review the proposed changes. Janine Savoy volunteered to get the drafts to the Building Commissioner.

Resident Marin Paine offered her opinion that the first question that the public will ask is "what is different with the proposed changes".

A suggestion was made that the Board prepare some visual materials to illustrate the changes, perhaps a power point presentation. The web master will be contacted to see if he could assist in this.

Michael Hale riposted that residents that receive their mail via the Chester and Hinsdale mail carriers would not receive the Board's invitational mailing due to US Postal System policy. A discussion of whether or not the Board should drop the mailing from its plan ensued. There was disagreement amongst the board as to whether or not the mailing should happen given that not all residents would receive the direct mail. A motion to do the direct mailing was made and seconded. The vote on the motion was three yeses and two nos.

It was decided that a press release about the informational meeting would be sent to the Country Journal, the Westfield newspaper and the Berkshire Eagle. Alan Vint drafted and read the press release at the meeting. He will send them to the newspaper.

Michael Hale and Terry Crean will send out the mailing.

Maureen will get a notice of the informational meeting on the Town web site. Janine offered to be the contact person listed on the web site for people want to get copies of the proposed changes.

Motions were made and seconded that mail regarding technical assistance and smart growth be taken up at the Board's next meeting. The votes were unanimous in favor.

The next meeting was schedule for February 11, 2013 at 6:30.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded at 8:43. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Sullivan, Secretary