

## **BOROUGH OF WEST READING PLANNING COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018**

The West Reading Planning Commission met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chair Philip Wert, Vice Chair Christopher Lincoln, Oswald Herbert, Nicholas Imbesi, Christin Kelley, Jennifer Bressler, Terry Siggins, Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman and Assistant to the Manager Cynthia Madeira.

**Visitors:** Kevin Flannery, Equus Partners

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

There was no public comment.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Motion to approve the February 7, 2018 minutes as written. **Moved** by Mr. Herbert and seconded by Mr. Imbesi. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **New Business**

- a. Vanity Fair Sign Variance Application – Mr. Wert stated the requested relief pertains to the total allowable sign size on any one building façade. Mr. Flannery noted the proposed 140 square foot VF logo sign would be placed above the entrance of building 202 facing west into the campus area. Overall signage has not yet been developed; future plans would include signage for the Reading Hospital who plans to occupy the upper floors of this building for administrative office space. Vanity Fair retailers are scheduled to move into the 1<sup>st</sup> floor area at the end of the month and intend to utilize temporary sign banners until the outcome of the Zoning Hearing Board decision.

Commission members agreed the square footage of the proposed sign in relation to building size is minimal. A motion was made to send a letter of support to the Zoning Hearing Board.

**Moved** by Mr. Herbert and seconded by Mr. Siggins. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- b. Burial of Animals – Mrs. Hoffman noted a complaint received by the Code Department pertaining to a resident burying multiple large dogs in their yard area and no current regulations within the Code of Ordinances. Due to sanitary concerns, Commission members requested review of additional guidelines for consideration during next months meeting.

### **Old Business**

- a. **Joint Comprehensive Plan Update** – It was noted that the draft comprehensive plan should be completed this summer.
- b. **Zoning Changes:**
  - i. **Review proposed amendments** – Mr. Wert noted solicitor comments had been added to the proposed zoning amendments. Mr. Herbert stated the new definition of “Vehicle” is ambiguous, which would prohibit parking a wheelbarrow or lawn mower in the yard area and provide the potential of being legally challenged; also, there are additional definitions in

the ordinance such as “Motor Vehicle” and “Recreational Vehicle”. The majority of Commission members preferred the broader “Vehicle” definition allowing the Zoning Officer to enforce extreme conditions, however further revisions would be needed to condense the three vehicle definitions into one.

Mr. Herbert noted a conflict within a Use Permitted by Right in the Conservation District allowing parking upon areas covered by stone or wood chips and Supplemental Regulations requiring adherence to Off-Street Parking and Loading. Commission members agreed to request the engineer review these sections to provide recommendations.

Mr. Imbesi suggested removal of the sexual orientation reference to homosexuality located within the definition of Sexual Activities, Specified. Commission members agreed to remove the word “homosexuality” from this definition.

- c. **Codes Review** – Tabled until next month.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Assistant to the Manager

Cathy Hoffman  
Borough Manager