

MINUTES of the LAND USE COMMITTEE MEETING

2/22/10

The meeting was called for 7 pm in the Town Hall. It replaced the originally-scheduled February 8th meeting which was cancelled due to snow. Present on 2/22 were Dedun Ingram (chair), Craig Brooks, Stephanie Brown, Kathy Flaxman, Georgia Guhin, Lees Hartman, Deborah Vollmer, and Linna Barnes (Town Council liaison, left at 8 pm).

Minutes of the January 11 meeting were corrected to show Stephanie present, Georgia not. Stephanie moved to accept as revised. Seconded, passed without dissent.

Discussion centered on the creation of a handbook of building regulations for Town residents.

- 1) Committee member Joe Rubin had sent out an email after our last meeting noting that Alan Beal had approached him about potentially working on the handbook. Although Alan had known that we were working on this project, he did not indicate his interest until Vic Tervala's proposal had already been presented and approved by the Council. We can certainly have Alan go over a draft of the handbook for accuracy and other input.
- 2) We want to give Mr. Tervala a detailed outline as a basis. Dedun passed out a list of possible homeowner projects, from teardown/rebuild to planting a hedge, to use as a starting point. A project-oriented approach for the handbook's organization was favored.
- 3) The existence of County rules and regulations should be mentioned.
- 4) The Town's tree ordinance and water ordinance (the latter currently under revision) should be included.
- 5) Although committee members have shown a preference for a searchable on-line version, the Council has specifically requested a printed version. That could be more basic and refer to on-line for details. Or the on-line version could be in PDF format (or some other format) that the Town could print off as desired. The committee feels that an updatable online version is essential given the frequency of changes in Town regulations and the need to add clarifying details from time to time.
- 6) We plan to include a Definitions chapter in the Handbook with definitions for all key terms so that the Handbook will be as user-friendly as possible. Although there is a definitions section at the beginning of Chapter 4 of the Town code, some terms used in the regulations are missing. Kathy volunteered to make a list of terms that need to be defined.
- 7) Is the Village or another local municipality doing a similar handbook, and if so could we look at it? Georgia offered to look on the Internet for other towns that might have a similar handbook.
- 8) We would like to invite Mr. Tervala to our next meeting. Perhaps he could bring a sample chapter. If he has done similar work for other towns, he might bring sample(s).

Rights of way: We had been considering regulations regarding the Town rights of way, but Lees suggested that if the Town is not willing to invest in the proposed survey to determine where rights of way are, this could be a waste of time.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Next meeting is on the usual second Monday, March 8, 2010.