

**POCONO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
SIGN PORTION OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE
UPDATE WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 7:00 p.m.**

The Pocono Township Planning Commission held a Workshop on September 18th, 2014, to review and update the Township's zoning ordinances. Ron Swink, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Ron Swink, Chairman, present; Scott Gilliland, Vice-Chairman, present; Robert Demarest, present; Marie Guidry, present; Bob DeYoung, present; Taylor Munoz, present; and Jeremy Sawicki, present.

Lisa Pieria, Township Solicitor; Tim Edinger, Township Engineer; Pamela Finkbeiner, Secretary, and Mike Tripus, Township Zoning Officer; were present.

MINUTES:

S. Gilliland made a motion, seconded by J. Sawicki, to approve the minutes of the 08/21/2014 meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

SIGN ORDINANCE DRAFT REVIEW

R. Swink commented on the enforcement of the draft sign ordinance with the various sign sizes. Discussion followed. S. Gilliland suggested additional hours for the Zoning Officer. R. Swink noted the illegal signs are being enforced and past practice by previous boards allowed the prolific signage, many of which were given Variance, Conditional Use approval, and zoning permits.

M. Tripus, Twp. Zoning Officer, stated it is very difficult to go after non-compliance signage which received permits. L. Pieria, Twp. Solicitor, noted it is better to enforce the Ordinance before a permit is issued than to correct a permit issued in error.

The Commission decided the proposed Draft Pocono Township Ordinance of 3-13 should be used with the addition of:

- 1) Temporary Signage
- 2) Window Signs
- 3) Removal of Political Signs
- 4) Inclusion of State and Federal Signage

- Definitions will be updated to include Electronic/Digital signs, window signs, etc., not covered presently in the Zoning Ordinance.
- The Sign Ordinance will remain as part of the Zoning Ordinance instead of a 'stand-alone' ordinance.
- The addition of photos of preferred signage will be included. The commission will take pictures of examples to include.
- Businesses in Pocono Township will be contacted to work together with the Township in promoting 'Good signage principles'.

COMMENTS

Brad Wise, Commissioner, commented on the recent PennDOT proposal for Rt. 715/611 and Scotrun exit. A round-about is proposed for the Scotrun Ext. The proposed plan is available at the Township office.

Codification of Ordinances - discussion on the status of Pocono Township's Codification.

ADJOURNMENT

M. Guidry made a motion, seconded by B. Demarest, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., until the next workshop on 10/16/2014 at 7:00 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.