

**POCONO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**ZONING ORDINANCES UPDATE WORKSHOP**  
**APRIL 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Pocono Township Planning Commission held a Workshop to review and update the Township's zoning ordinances. Ron Swink, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Lisa Pieria, Township Solicitor and Tim Edinger, Township Engineer, were present.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:**

Ron Swink introduced Eric Koopman, Monroe County Planning Commission. E. Koopman gave a brief summary of process of development of the draft ordinances and future plans for regional planning.

T. Edinger, Twp. Engineer, questioned the availability of grants to assist the Township. Discussion followed re: new Comprehensive Plan or updating the existing regional Comprehensive Plan.

**SIGNAGE ISSUES:**

Discussion of signage problems were discussed:

- 1) Signage near intersections/driveway entrances- clear site triangles.
- 2) Signage to close together.
- 3) Signage setbacks from roadways and property lines.
- 4) Sale signs, Special Events, and Sandwich Boards signs.
- 5) Sign plaza.
- 6) Signs in disrepair or abandoned.
- 7) Illegal signage and enforcement.

Katheryn and Brian Dixon, Gram ma's Country Corner, questioned why they were required to remove their sandwich board sign when other businesses have not. She requested the ordinance be changed to allow sandwich boards during store hours. She recommended the Township notify business owners that the Zoning officer would be enforcing the rule.

Rich Wielebinski, Commissioner, stated Mike Tripus, Zoning Officer, was requested by the Commissioners to contact businesses owners along Rt. 611 to remove illegal signs.

Tom Sforza, Best Auto, suggested businesses be allowed to advertise special events, sales, etc.

Judy Coover suggested the Business owners meet separately to develop a list of issues and suggestions to bring to the Planning Commission Workshops to 'brainstorm' on ways to improve the signage ordinances.

Vincent DiFranciso, Vinnie's Deli, stated he felt 'targeted' as a new business owner for removal of his additional signs.

Brad Wise, Commissioner, stated the zoning officer will be visiting all property owners with illegal signs. He noted that at present, Mike Tripus is scheduled 12 hours per week as Zoning Officer.

Discussion followed concerning enforcement of the present ordinance. The committee confirmed the present ordinance needs to be enforced.

Taylor Munoz suggested that the property/sign owners be notified in writing before the Zoning officer visit their property.

Lisa Pieria, Twp. Solicitor, questioned if the Zoning officer was reviewing each property's signage for legal permits.

Tom Sforza will organize the business persons to hold a meeting concerning the proposed sign ordinances. He will contact the Township on the availability of the meeting room.

Tim Edinger, Twp. Engineer, requested the commission choose a draft ordinance to work with. The Commission agreed to use the draft Pocono Township ordinance as the working model.

Next meeting - Because of a lack of quorum on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Commission agreed to cancel the next workshop meeting. B. Demarest made a motion, seconded by T. Munoz, to cancel the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 workshop meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

R. Swink made a motion, seconded by S. Gilliland to adjourn the workshop at 9:11 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Pamela Finkbeiner  
Secretary