

# ***Deep Creek Watershed Sign Committee Minutes***

## ***January 23, 2019***

### **I. Call to order**

### **II. Attendance**

The following members were present: Morgan France, Julie Mead, Amy Zimmerman, Rob Michael, Jonathan Kessler and Bob Browning. Also present were Robin Douglas on behalf of the towns, Gwen Evans from the Town of Oakland and Tony Doerr from the Planning Commission.

The following subject matter experts were present: Mike Kenney (sign industry)

The following staff from the Garrett County Department of Planning & Land Management were present: Deborah Carpenter and Bruce Metz

### **III. Old Business**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as provided.

#### **SHA Review and Discussion**

Carpenter provided a summary of the discussions with SHA in the meeting. Kessler published his own assessment of the discussions. Both were sent to Linda Puffenbarger for her edits. At the time of this meeting, we have not received a response. Kessler's summary will be distributed to the group. Carpenter expressed concerns about the Committee focusing too much on state highway right of way issues, because negotiating with SHA for some leniency in their right of ways is beyond the jurisdiction of the ordinance and it could likely derail the timetable for the chapter update. The group agreed that the SHA negotiations should run parallel to but not hinder the sign chapter update.

### **IV. New Business**

#### **Sign Types and Definitions**

The group reviewed the sign chart by reviewing the types and definitions that are listed on the left hand side.

- For **onsite building signs in commercial zones**, the idea was presented to replace the 10% of building face with a 100 square foot maximum, to something that allows larger signs. Another idea is to have a maximum square footage allowed for the property and not limit the number of signs as long as the square footage is met.

- For **onsite building signs in residential zones**, it was discussed that they would want to limit it to one per building or property and control the maximum size.
- For **onsite common area signs in commercial zones** some discussion occurred regarding whether there was a need for a separate designation for multi-tenant signs. Also the definition for both the commercial and residential common area signs should change from “...qualifying subdivision of development” to “...qualifying common area”. If that occurs, a definition of “qualifying common area” should be added to the definitions list.
- For **onsite and offsite directional signs in all zones** discussion ensued regarding whether calling it a directional sign would violate Reed v. Town of Gilbert. From that some suggestions were voiced for alternative terminology. Ultimately, the directional signs were tabled until the next meeting.
- For **billboards** discussion revolved around the standard interpretation of that term, which tends to make people think of the very large signs functioning offsite by a private company who rents the space to those who wish to advertise. It may be better to refer to them as **outdoor advertising signs**.

#### **V. Review of Action Items**

- **Carpenter will send Kessler’s assessment of SHA discussions.**
- **Carpenter will create and send a SHA ROW map.**
- **Carpenter will follow up with Linda P on Linda’s action items.**
- **Carpenter will send Kessler’s sample application to the group.**
- **Carpenter will ensure staff review of definitions and standards.**
- **Carpenter will investigate extra meeting dates in February.**
- **Kessler will report to the Planning Commission on February 6.**
- **All will review sign definitions and standards and be prepared to discuss.**

#### **VI. Next Meeting – February 13, 2019**

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Deborah Carpenter, Director