

Deep Creek Watershed Sign Committee Minutes

March 13, 2019

I. Call to order

II. Attendance

The following members were present: Bob Browning, Karen Myers, Rob Michael, Jim Lascaris and Robin Douglas (towns).

The following industry experts: 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

Minutes

The minutes from February 13 and February 25 were approved without edits. The minutes from February 27 were approved with one edit.

Review –

Carpenter reviewed the current LED regulations as well as the history of the LED amendment that was proposed to the Planning Commission.

Definitions –

Browning requested a re-visit of the sign definitions with a comparison to what is in the existing ordinance. Of particular concern were definitions that already exist within the zoning ordinance and used in other regulatory functions that are not necessarily related to signs. Getty stressed that definitions that only apply to signage will only exist within the sign chapter. They will be removed from the definitions chapter of the ordinance. Getty will review the rest of the definitions for consistency with the overall ordinance.

IV. New Business

Discussion was held about how to ensure that certain signs would not fall under these regulations. For example, signs showing 911 numbers or that are less than 2 square feet should not be regulated. Getty will devise appropriate language and bring back to the group.

Temporary signs were decided to be allowed regardless of type, but the maximum number will be based on acreage. Getty and Carpenter will work on language.

Sign height was decided to be 20 feet as a general rule; however 25 feet to the top of the sign will be allowed where the centerline of the abutting road is higher than the 20 feet maximum, but no higher than a maximum of 5 feet above the centerline. For example if a sign at 20 feet will be 3 feet below the centerline of the road, it will be allowed to have a bonus height of 3', for a maximum height of 23 feet.

It was also decided to eliminate the special exception language within the sign chapter.

V. Review of Action Items

1. Getty and Carpenter will work together to create a version of the sign chapter that will look more like the end product.
2. Getty and Carpenter will contact Phil Kenney to see why Mr. King, the LED sign expert did not attend. Also Carpenter and Metz will look for current LED regulations and industry standards that can be used by the group.

VI. Next Meeting – March 13, 2019

VII. Adjournment

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Deborah Carpenter