

APPROVED

**LAKE GEORGE VILLAGE
26 OLD POST ROAD
FEBRUARY 4, 2009
PLANNING BOARD
MINUTES**

Board members present:

Robert Mastrantoni, Patricia Dow, Dan Garay, Margy Mannix, Debbie Tirri, Patty Kirkpatrick

Others present:

Doug Frost (Code Enforcer), Carol Sullivan (Secretary),

Chairman Mastrantoni called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES

- The board agreed February 24, 2009 is not a good date to meet with ELAN. Carol will send an e-mail to ELAN asking for other dates. The board will discuss the remaining issues for the overlay district when they meet with ELAN.
- Regarding the moratorium on decks, the planning board is waiting for the joint meeting with the village board to discuss this further.

SIGNS – MENU BOARDS

- Robert suggested the board look at the sign ordinance since signs, murals, menu boards and a-frames signs have been discussed in the past.
- Looking at Lisa Nagle's September 12, 2008 document regarding signs the board began discussing menu boards.
- Patricia mentioned, if the building abuts the village property then a menu board could be affixed to the building, if the building is set back then the menu board could be in a box-like structure and placed on the property owner's property.
- Robert mentioned a size should be established. The sidewalk café ordinance allows menu boards to be 6 square feet with no one dimension greater than 3 feet.
- The board discussed whether or not illumination should be allowed. They agreed a small light (low voltage) would be acceptable. The sidewalk café ordinance does not allow for illumination – the board discussed whether or not the sidewalk café ordinance should allow for illumination if other menu boards can be illuminated.
- The board agreed if a building is at the village property line then the menu board should be attached to the building and it cannot project more than 2 inches – this is consistent with the sidewalk café ordinance.
- Doug mentioned all menu boards should be treated the same whether part of a sidewalk café or any other establishment.
- The board agreed sidewalk cafes should be able to have lighted menu boards.

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Using Elan's suggestion in their document dated September 12, 2008 (page 3)

ELAN'S SUGGESTION (Planning board suggestions are underlined)

Menu Board signs.

- (a) One menu board sign shall be permitted for all businesses serving food at tables and such signs shall be limited to four square feet – see discussion issues re 4 or 6 sq. ft.
- (b) Such signs may only be constructed of metal, stone, wood or materials with a wood-appearance, shall not be internally illuminated or neon.
- (c) Such signs may be illuminated from above with wattage no greater than 15 watts. The lighting fixture may extend 4 inches beyond the sign. The lighting fixture must be covered. The illumination shall face downward towards the menu and shall not project beyond the menu.
- (d) Such signs shall only display the name, address, and menu of the establishment.
- (e) Such signs shall be located on the property where the food is offered. If the building abuts the village right of way then the menu board must be attached to the building and cannot project more than 2 inches.
- (f) Commercial advertising is not allowed.

- The board discussed (d) as proposed by ELAN and discussed whether or not "specials" should be allowed. Does the term menu include specials? The board agreed menu includes specials.
- The board agreed there should be no commercial advertising on the menu board. Many distributors provide white boards which could be used as a menu board and these boards contain the commercial advertising of the distributor (Pepsi, Coke, etc.)
- The planning board discussed whether or not menu boards can advertise entertainment, drink specials, etc. Patricia mentioned that glass enclosed menu boards may be less likely to have entertainment listed or drink specials listed but a white board that can be easily changed may move away from having just menu items listed.
- The board addressed the size, thinking the earlier suggestion of 6 square feet provides for a lot of room. The board had difficulty agreeing on a size. Doug pointed out, often people use an a-frame design to display menu items – does the menu board have to be a flat board located on the building or on a pole if it's located on the owner's property? Menu boards should be allowed to be free-standing if they are located on the owner's property.
- Patricia feels a menu board on a sidewalk café should be attached to the railing, on a building for buildings that abut the village right of way and on a pole (in the ground) if located on the property owner's property.
- Carol pointed out the a-frame ordinance makes reference to the display area of the sign.
- Height should be addressed if menu boards can be on a pole.
- Robert mentioned restaurant supply catalogs show menu boards and sizes. Perhaps the board should look at these menu boards before deciding on the size. The board agreed to look at the size of the pre-made menu boards at the next meeting.

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SIGNS – A-FRAMES

- Location seems to be an issue. Currently the code allows for one sign per storefront to be located on a sidewalk. A-frame signs are displayed in the off season to let people know what's open. A business on a backstreet wants to put their a-frame sign on Canada St.
- Robert feels there are too many a-frame signs and adding backstreet signs to Canada St. just creates more and more a-frame signs on Canada St.
- Patricia feels a-frame signs are a means of advertising which businesses are open in the off season. There's no point in having an a-frame sign in front of a building that is located off Canada St.
- Robert wondered if the corner directories could be utilized to show businesses that are open in the off season. Dan Garay feels the font on the directory signs is too small for them to be utilized for what is open in the off season. The directory signs are meant for foot traffic.
- The board discussed/suggested such options as:
 - A directory listing what is open.
 - Set designated spots for a-frames affiliated with a back street business.
 - Set a distance - a-frames can be located so many feet from the business.
 - Side and backstreets advertise on one sign located on Canada St. thus reducing the number of signs. These could be magnetic to allow for changes in what is open and what is not.
 - Utilize the directional signs – cover them (canvas covering) in the off season and add what is open in the off season.
- The board agreed some signs need to be refurbished and that maintenance should be addressed.
- Currently, the code implies the "permit" is good for only a year; the a-frame signs are seasonal permits. The board agreed one approval should be granted.
- Approval of a-frames signs was not always required.

MOTION: Margy Mannix made a motion to adjourn.

2ND: Robert Mastrantoni

Robert Mastrantoni	Dan Courtney	Patricia Dow	Dan Garay	Debbie Tirri
Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye	Aye

Meeting adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Carol Sullivan
February 9, 2009