

SPENCER BOARD OF ALDERMEN
JOINT MEETING WITH PLANNING BOARD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Jody Everhart
Mayor Pro-Tem Scott Benfield
Aldermen: Delaine Fowler
Jeff Morris
David Smith
Reid Walters

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alderman: Tracy Aitken

Planning Board Members present: Ron Gerlock, Jim Gobbel, David Lamanno, Robert Nance, and Craig Powers

Mayor Everhart called the meeting to order and explained that this was the semi-annual joint meeting as directed by the Board of Aldermen. He then asked the Planning Board if they have any concerns as to direction from the Board of Aldermen. Gobbel responded that he feels Land Management Director Dustin Wilson keeps them informed.

Members feel that there is good communication between the two Boards. Fowler stated that goals for 2011 had been met. Had anything been missed? Gobbel would like signage on Fifth Street to recognize local businesses. Morris asked if there was an enabling ordinance to permit that type of sign. Gobbel stated that the merchants on the north end of town are suffering by the I-85 exit changes during construction.

Morris complimented the Planning Board for a job well done, especially the multiple principal uses. He thinks the Town is becoming more business friendly and being more objective in the ordinances. There are fewer occasions where interpretation is required. He hears positive comments from property owners.

The Boards discussed drafting simple guidelines (Frequently Asked Questions) for those unfamiliar with the ordinances, to explain specifics such as a simple use permit, a CUP, etc., and explain to property owners what's allowed and what's not allowed. The information and the code of ordinances could be distributed on thumb drives or CD's to those who have questions. Members were encouraged to view the information already together on the Town website as a potential starting point for further discussion.

Mayor Everhart would like to encourage all Town groups and staff to continue working with the Museum. Special events at the Museum should be publicized. Gobbel suggested a community bulletin board or electronic marquee downtown to advertise events and school accomplishments. Fowler stated that the former Park Plaza parking lot is not attractive. It needs landscaping as boundaries or possibly a gazebo. The Town

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Board should approach Henry Alexander and provide a concept and implementation suggestions, and perhaps provide grant information.

Board members would like to attract diversity to the various Boards and Committees. The level of interest from citizens is good, but the level of participation is poor.

Benfield would like to see Town-sponsored events, such as movies in the park, 5K run, etc.

Members agreed they would like these joint meetings to continue. Morris suggested that Planning Board members come to the Aldermen planning retreat.

With no further business, Mayor Everhart adjourned the joint meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa B. Perdue, CMC
Town Clerk