

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
PLANNING BOARD
AUGUST 10, 2022
VIA ZOOM
7:00 PM**

Board Members Present: George Oleen, Chairman
Kenneth Smith
Sari Hoy
Robbie Cooper

Board Members Not Present: Caitlin McNeil

Others Present: Members of the Public

Chairman George Oleen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ANR Request: None

Approval of Minutes: There were no minutes for approval

Discussion on Dark Sky Bylaw: K. Smith presented the Board with a proposed Dark Skies Bylaw and said that he used the bylaw from New Marlborough and made changes that fit Sheffield. One change that he noted was that all references to the Select Board was changed to Planning Board and Zoning Enforcement Officer. Anything that he thought needed closer review he highlighted in yellow for Board discussion.

K. Smith explained the process for adopting a bylaw and stated that this discussion would not be the final approval.

S. Hoy asked about the definition of nadir, a term that was used in New Marlborough's version. K. Smith stated that the definition is "the point on celestial sphere directly below the observer". S. Hoy would like to use different words that are easily understood.

The Board discussed kelvin, brightness level of lights. K. Smith suggested that the kelvin not exceed 3000, discussion continued regarding 27000 vs 3000. K. Smith stated that anything under 2700 kelvin would only allow one bulb choice.

Then Board began discussing electronic sign displays. It was the consensus of the Board that messages should not scroll or change constantly but should be static for about 24 hours because they are less obtrusive and would fit the character of Sheffield. K. Smith stated that the sign bylaw should be reviewed to make sure that anything adopted for Dark Sky would not contradict with the sign bylaw.

Discussion continued regarding time limit for compliance with the new bylaw and violations/enforcement. S. Hoy asked how a violation would be recognized and who handles the violation. Chairman Oleen stated that because of the way the Zoning Enforcement Officer is empowered, by the Select Board, it might be better if complaints were to come before the Planning Board. S. Hoy stated that it might be a good idea if the ZEO consulted the Planning Board before going to the violator.

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Discussion continued regarding the time frame to fix a violation and the amount of the fine.

S. Hoy stated that she looked in retractable shades for Marijuana establishments. These shades should be installed at the time of construction. It was the consensus of the Board that they should have conversations with the cultivators to discuss a compromise with the timing of their lighting. It was also the consensus of the Board that the Marijuana bylaw be amended to require retractable shades when the buildings are constructed.

Public Comments: Resident David Rogers-Thieriot stated his concerns as follows:

1. The violations being a misdemeanor, which is a criminal offense, not civil and he thinks this is excessive.
2. Are there any grandfathering provisions, and if so, they should be clearly defined.
3. The way the bylaw is written it seems to include holiday lights and he asked for an exemption for holiday lights.
4. There should be a solid definition for light trespass with specified limits

The Board will take his concerns under advisement.

The meeting schedule was discussed, the next meeting will be September 14, 2022.

Chairman Oleen read a meeting notice from the Town of New Marlborough.

S. Hoy stated that the minutes of the joint meeting between the Board and the Select Board has not been approved and she would like some changes. This topic will be added to the next meeting agenda.

R. Cooper made a motion to adjourn, seconded by S. Hoy. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Oleen adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Beverly Keefner
Recording Clerk