

Bethel Development Review Board
Tuesday, December 2, 2014
Draft Minutes of Meeting

Board Members Present: Eric Benson, Keith Bollman, Ruth Clough, Penny Griffin, Robert Leister, Charles Washburn, Newt Whitcomb.

Public Present: Owen Bradley, Principal of Whitcomb High School/Bethel Elementary School

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.

A public hearing was opened for a request from the Bethel School District for a variance of Section 323 "Outdoor Signs" as a "Special Public Use Exemption" (Section 324) for a property located at 273 Pleasant Street. The sign in question is a recently installed remotely controlled LED illuminated 4' x 6' sign display. As it currently exists, the sign directly violates Subsection 5 of Section 323 which states; "No sign shall be illuminated by a neon, flashing, moving, or intermittent generated light".

Mr. Bradley was invited to describe the situation and explained that he had "inherited" the sign since being hired for his current position as Principal this past Summer. It was his understanding that there has been a "verbal agreement" between the former Principal & former Town Manager regarding the installation of the sign size, however, no permit had been issued.

In discussing the situation, the board members raised some concerns including distracted drivers trying to read the changing sign messages and the color and intensity of the lighted messages. Mr. Owen was not well versed on the nuances of the technical aspects of the sign capabilities and advised that he could provide a representative, either in person or via conference call, from the company who sold the sign to the school to provide those answers to the Board. K. Bollman moved that the public hearing be continued to December 16, 2014 at 7PM in order to allow time for Mr. Owen to arrange for a representative to be present. The motion was seconded by R. Leister and passed by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eric Benson