

THE SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND
SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
JOINT WORK SESSION – OCTOBER 17, 2024, AT 7:00PM

A Joint Work Session of the Smithfield Township Board of Supervisors (“Board”) and Planning Commission (“Commission”) was held on October 17, 2024, at the Smithfield Township Municipal Center, at 1155 Red Fox Rd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, and via Zoom

Present are Supervisors Jacob Pride and Michael Albert; Commissioners Scott Amori, James Munet, Nicole Carney and Douglas Schryver; Administrative Coordinator Dyana Salvi and Conservation and Recreation Director Alex Jackson. Commissioners Moses, Strunk, and Bowers, and Supervisor Lovenheim are not present.

Also present are Brett Cartwright, Kristine Karol, and Frances Schryver.

1. Chair Jacob Pride calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Quorums are present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. New Business:
 - a. Discuss: Draft Signage Ordinance. Michael Albert introduces the format and categories of signs; on-premises versus off-premises, limited duration signs, temporary signs, and permanent signs. He describes the definition of a permanent sign and compares how the new regulations would significantly change signage procedures. He addresses concerns about previous non-conforming signs by suggesting changing the use to temporary and giving it a 30-day period. Commissioner Schryver addresses the need for regulations and describes witnessing a mobile sign on the side of the road. Michael Albert describes the definitions of specific signs, and states the regulations vary by district.

Commissioner Schryver asks for the procedure to outlaw billboards; Alex Jackson refers to case law and exclusionary zoning issues, and comments on pre-existing non-conforming billboards. Michael Albert describes the most restrictive and least restrictive signs. The Board and Commissioners discuss the duration of political signs. Alex Jackson goes over definitions in section 2 - purpose and intent - for legal matters and case law. Commissioner Amori suggests regulating time, place, and manner of the sign as opposed to content. Jacob Pride states concern for previous non-conforming business signs and abandoned/unsafe and unlawful signs to comply with new regulations.

Michael Albert discusses prohibiting snipe signs, vehicular signs, mechanical movement signs, animated signs, etcetera. Kristine Karol describes an interactive sign in Shawnee displaying speed; Michael Albert describes it as a traffic sign which would be exempt. The Board and Commission discuss regulating obscene content and methods of enforcement. Michael Albert discusses signs on personal property by right; signs are not permitted in public right of ways. Kristine Karol asks if a sign with porn or OnlyFans is obscene. Frances Schryver asks if home occupation signs are permitted.

Michael Albert discusses incidental signs, Commissioner Amori comments on regulations for drive through menu signs and lighting. Frances Schryver asks if the Board and Commission have driven through the Township to create the draft. Commissioner Munet comments on requirements for temporary directional real estate signs. The Board and Commission discuss referencing lighting with signage and park signs. Michael Albert describes directional signs and asks for feedback. Commissioner Munet asks for uniformity between signs. The Board discusses the possibility of using the Township logo/colors for creating directional signs. Frances Schryver references Freeport Maine as having uniform signage. Kristine Karol states concern for maintaining signage, landscaping and enforcement; she suggests educating the public of the new standards.

b. Discuss: Next Steps for Draft Ordinance.

The next Joint Special Meeting regarding the draft signage ordinance is scheduled for November 14, 2024, at 7:00PM.

4. Public Comment:

a. Brett Cartwright confirms that Ken Wolfe is the Codes Enforcement Officer.

5. Commissioner Schryver motions to adjourn, James Munet seconds: meeting adjourned at 8:42PM.

Minutes recorded by Dyana Salvi

Respectfully submitted:



Julia Heilakka
Township Secretary