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**MILLHEIM BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 27, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Millheim Borough Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson, Nicole Thompson, at 7:02 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Linn Auman, Dennis Bressler, David Sprowls, Tom Strebel, Nicole Thompson, Sharon Heckman, Glenn Ripka and Alma Confer.

A motion to accept the March 23, 2010 minutes as presented was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Dennis Bressler. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Solicitor is still working on the research on Walter Street.

The water/sewer authority work is still in process.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A request from Dollar General Store for a sign variance was discussed as follows:

- Mixed Use Zone/Residential allows a sign to be a total of 50 sq. feet but not back-lit.
- Dollar General is requesting a total of 64 sq. feet and would be back-lit.
- OIP wasn't allowed a back-lit sign even in the Downtown Business District.
- Lighting in the parking area is usually designed not to bother neighbors even when left on all night. A lighting plan will need to be submitted.

Opinions given as part of the discussion:

- Two signs in a residential low density zone are too many. One sign up by the road should be enough.
- To stay consistent with past decisions since OIP was denied a back-lit sign, this request for a back-lit sign should also be denied.
- Granting this variance would be setting precedence for future requests.

Eight letters were sent to neighboring residents inviting them to the meeting to give their input on this request. Only one person came and she wasn't really in favor of a large back-lit sign.

After discussion, a motion was made by Dave Sprowls and seconded by Linn Auman to recommend to Council that Dollar General must meet the 50 sq. ft. criteria but they should be allowed to choose which sign they want (on the building or at the road) but no back-lit signs be permitted. Motion carried.

Wording of the current sidewalk standards was discussed because of concerns about existing sidewalks with ADA height variances having corners ground down and not meeting the four-inch thick criteria. Dave Sprowls explained that the State College Borough allows sidewalks to be ground or shaved 1-1/2 inches but no more. Further discussion was tabled until June to gather more information.

Time limit parking on Borough Streets was discussed because of a vehicle being parked for several weeks without being moved. The possibility of changing the time period for an abandoned vehicle from thirty (30) days to fourteen (14) days was suggested. After some discussion, the consensus of the group was to take no action unless it becomes a problem and then it could be revisited.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. was made by Tom Strebel and seconded by Dennis Bressler. Motion carried.

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Sharon A. Heckman, Recording Secretary