

MILLHEIM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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MILLHEIM BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

July 28, 2009

The regular meeting of the Millheim Borough Planning Commission was called to order by Vice-Chairperson, Linn Auman, at 7:05 p.m. with the following persons in attendance: Linn Auman, Dennis Bressler, David Sprowls, Tom Strebel, Sharon Heckman, Glenn Ripka and Tim Bowser.

Absent: Nicole Thompson and John R. Miller, III

A motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Tom Strebel to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was reported that Borough Council approved the recommendations from the June 23, 2009 meeting as presented by the Planning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS:

The letter of request for a parking ordinance waiver received from Tim Bowser was discussed. Mr. Bowser was present and explained he would appreciate consideration of this request so his staff could park behind his business at the Elk Creek Café & Alehouse. Mr. Ripka explained that parking in this has become an issue because he received a complaint from a truck driver making a delivery. The following points were made during this discussion about the Borough Ordinance – Chapter 15; Page 106; Subsection 306:

- Parking along the alley behind the building opens spaces in the public parking lot or on Main Street.
- This Ordinance was written when this alley permitted two-way traffic.
- Delivery trucks for the Café are usually made by pulling up along the sidewalk on North Street not in the alley behind the building.
- Delivery trucks for Curt Bierly usually park in his lot
- After Bierly's is closed for the day, people from the Cafe can park in Mr. Bierly's lot. The number of vehicles parking along the alley varies but usually there are two or three.

The question was raised that because the Ordinance says “no parking in right-of-way” and the alley’s aren’t wide enough to get out of the right-of-way so should the Ordinance be rewritten?

The possibility of putting up no parking signs with posted times when deliveries are made was discussed but concerns were raised about what would happen if delivery trucks came at other times so this idea was dismissed.

After much discussion, a motion was made by David Sprowls and seconded by Tom Strebel to forward to Council the recommendation to take all Poplar Street that is currently designated as one-way and allow parking on one side of the street. Motion carried.

A motion was then made by Tom Strebel and seconded by David Sprowls to forward to Council the recommendation to have “No Parking in the Borough Right-of-Way unless approved by Borough Council”. Motion carried.

Mrs. Heckman was instructed to talk to the Solicitor to see if amending this ordinance by resolution to allow parking on this specific one-way alley could be done. She is also to find out if the alley between the Heggenstaller building and the Millheim Fire Company is one-way.

The language in the Sidewalk Ordinance for curb height vs. sidewalk height was discussed. The concern was raised about someone tripping if the curb is higher than the sidewalk by more than one inch. Another concern discussed was how to blend the sidewalk if the neighboring walk doesn’t need replaced and it is lower than the curb and the new walk being put in. Mr. Sprowls explained that the ordinance was originally written the way it is or the entire town would have been affected and it is hard to change the language now because some walks have already been put out for bids. After much discussion, the final consensus of the group was to leave the sidewalk ordinance as it is currently written.

The next meeting will be August 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. if needed.

A motion was made by Dennis Bressler and seconded by Tom Strebel to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Sharon A. Heckman, Recording Secretary