

**LOWER GWYNEDD TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
Minutes of February 21, 2024**

Present: Craig Melograno, Chairman
Rich Valiga, Vice-Chairman
Danielle Porreca
Maureen Nunn
Craig Adams
Mike Mrozinski

Patty Furber, B&Z Administrator

Absent: Rusty Beardsley

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Lower Gwynedd Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes: January 17, 2024

A motion was made by Ms. Porreca and seconded by Mr. Adams to approve the minutes of the Lower Gwynedd Township Planning Commission meeting of January 17, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Lower Gwynedd Township:

1. Proposed Temporary Sign Ordinance Amendment:

Mr. Adams questioned the wording in the MCPC review letter dated February 14, 2024 regarding “Temporary Sign Definition” and what exactly was meant by “temporary signs shall comply with the provisions of the Zoning Code for permanent signs regarding location, construction, and public safety.” Mr. Melograno stated that he felt that you wouldn’t be able to put up a sign like a stop sign. Mr. Mrozinski stated that he felt that it meant the temporary signage would have to have the same level of restrictions as permanent signage regarding blocking a ROW or line of sight. Ms. Nunn suggested that it meant that the sign ordinance would apply to certain zoning districts. Mr. Mrozinski stated that he currently is employed at Lower Providence Township and they have followed the MCPC Model Ordinance verbatim for the past ten years and it has been going pretty well.

Ms. Porreca stated that there needs to be some clarification regarding Section 2(b)(3)A: "Maximum area: eight (8) square feet" Mr. Melograno and Ms. Porecca suggested adding for each sign. Ms. Porreca suggested the display period should be changed. Mr. Melograno and the rest of the board suggested that the duration period should be changed to 30 days per the MCPC review letter.

The board members felt that there shouldn't be a limitation of having only (5) temporary signs at 8sf each on commercial properties. They recommend that commercial properties should get a choice between (5) signs at 8 sf or one large sign not exceeding 32 sf. max. Mr. Melograno stated that if someone had a grand opening that one larger sign would be more eye-catching. Ms. Nunn wanted to know if a permit would be required for a larger sign. Lower Gwynedd Township Manager, Ms. Mimi Gleason, was in the audience. Ms. Gleason stated that would be considered a permanent sign and would have to meet all the sign criteria. This ordinance is just for temporary signage which is limited to 8 sf. with a duration period of fourteen days. Ms. Nunn stated that the smaller signs would be more difficult for people to read while driving by. She stated that having one larger sign, wouldn't be as distracting.

Mr. Melograno wanted to know how the board felt about personal expression signs. Mr. Mrozinski stated that the sign can't be a hazard to the public. Mr. Melograno stated that residential is not part of this ordinance due to the freedom of expression, but in commercial, we are not giving them that freedom. Mr. Melograno stated that are we OK with personal expression signs on commercial properties. Mr. Valiga wanted to know if the sign is up for thirty days, after thirty days, can they reapply for the same sign? Mr. Melograno stated that it can be displayed twice per year for thirty days. Mr. Melograno stated that he didn't think there was anything forbidding the applicant from putting up the same sign for the two periods.

A motion was made by Ms. Porreca and seconded by Mr. Adams to recommend the Proposed Temporary Sign Ordinance Amendment to the Board of Supervisors with the following recommendations:

1. The board recommends incorporating MCPC's recommendation to add a reference to section 1292.05 to more clearly refer to the appropriate sign standards;
2. The board recommends revising Section 2(b)(3)A: "Maximum area: eight (8) square feet for each sign" for clarification;
3. The board recommends that commercial properties should have a choice between having (5) temporary signs at 8sf each or one large sign not exceeding 32sf. max;
4. The board recommends extending the timeframe for temporary signs from 14 days to 30 days per the MCPC.

The motion passed with 6-0 vote.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Furber, Secretary