



**PLANNING BOARD MINUTES
February 13, 2019**

Call to order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, led a Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and called the roll. Present: Peter Iacobucci (Chair), Wendy Regan, Shane Piche, Henry Riccitelli (Vice Chair), and Warren Riccitelli. Absent: Steven Borowick, and Yle Bookbinder. Also present: Kelly Morris, Counsel to the Planning Board, and Dave Westcott, Town Planner.

The Chair called for a motion to approve minutes of December 12, 2018. A motion to approve was made by Shane Piche and seconded by Warren Riccitelli. There was no further discussion and the motion was approved unanimously.

- 1. Request from the Town Council for an opinion on consistency with the Comprehensive Plan of a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow relocation of existing non-conforming billboards within the Commercial General Zoning district subject to Planning Board site plan approval.**

Mr. Westcott said he has provided his opinion in writing and feels the amendment stands on its own merits. He said the town has been in discussion with Lamar signs and he expects an application for site plan approval to be submitted to the Planning Board. There has been no application prepared yet, but he does have some sketches of a proposed new location for the billboard at the Public Safety Complex.

He said the Council's initial draft would have made billboards legal in every commercial district in the town. He said he did not think that would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan's direction to update the sign ordinance and reduce visual clutter. The current amendment is much more limited and therefore consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Riccitelli said he would like to add that electronic billboards should be prohibited. Mr. Westcott said they are not included in the amendment. The amendment would apply only to panel type billboards. An application would have to be submitted to the Planning Board for site plan approval. Mr. Piche asked if this would include relocating billboards on town property? Mr. Westcott said yes, it would, as long as they are existing non-conforming. Mr. Piche asked how many existing non-conforming billboards there are in North Providence. Mr. Westcott said he doesn't know how many there are but cited other locations near Route 146 and Smith Street. There was no further discussion and the Chair asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

MOTION: (Mr. Piche) That the Planning Board advise the Town Council that approval of the proposed Zoning Amendment would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan because it would prohibit construction of any additional billboards in North Providence and would protect public health and safety through Planning Board site plan review.

The motion was seconded by Warren Riccitelli. There was no further discussion and the motion was passed by unanimous vote.

2. Fair Housing Presentation

Kathy McCabe, CDBG coordinator for North Providence introduced herself and explained that, in order to participate in the CDBG program, the State of RI and the federal Department of Urban Development (HUD) require that we show that we are taking action to affirmatively further fair housing goals. As part of our program to do that, she has arranged a fair housing training session for the Planning Board this evening.

She introduced Kristina da Fonseca, Executive Director of SouthCoast Fair Housing in Pawtucket and New Bedford. Ms. Da Fonseca gave a brief talk about fair housing laws and requirements as they apply in North Providence and led a discussion about the actions Planning Board members can take to support fair housing goals in the community.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Piche and seconded by Mr. Riccitelli and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.