

St. Michaels Planning Commission
St. Michaels Town Office
300 Mill Street

Remote Meeting
May 18, 2020 - 1:00 P.M.

Present: Planning Commission Chairman Jefferson Knapp and members Helen Herman, Carol Parlett, and Chris Thomas, Zoning Officer Kymberly Kudla. Commissioner Dennis Glackin was present as an observer.

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Knapp called the remote meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in St. Michaels, Maryland.

II. Approval of Minutes – March 10, 2020 meeting

Chairman Knapp said he had no issues with the minutes. There were no other comments. The minutes were approved as presented by a show of hands.

III. Items for Discussion

1. Zoning Code Rewrite matters

Zoning Officer Kudla opened a discussion of comments on the draft zoning re-write received from Dennis Glackin, Jean Weisman, and Doug Rollow. The members had copies of the proposed changes in front of them. Chairman Knapp read each of the comments and obtained general consent of the members following discussion.

2. Request for a Year-round Farmers' Market sign on Talbot Street

After some discussion, Member Parlett made a motion to put the issue of Farmers' Market signage on hold and make it part of the Planning Commission's plan to address all signage throughout the Town. Member Chris Thomas seconded it and the motion passed on a unanimous show of hands.

The members then took public comment. Kathy Stinchcomb of Locust Street asked whether short-term rentals would require a permit just like vacation rentals and the answer was yes. Chairman Knapp encouraged the public to also send any additional questions or comments into the Zoning Officer. Regarding signage, the members directed staff to contact the businesses in the Mill and the Maritime Museum to remind them to submit signage master plans. Chairman Knapp said he would also send a letter to the Commissioners requesting that a study be done to move the signage issue forward.

Commissioner Glackin suggested that the Planning Commission have another listening session for the draft Code re-write and determine whether the meeting should be a Saturday and whether it should be live or via remote hookup.

Chairman Knapp also brought up the issue of the 250-year old tree growing between the Victoriana and Snuggery B&B's and the need to preserve it. Chairman Knapp said the tree is the only one of its kind left in town and the new owner of the Snuggery wants to cut it down. Member Chris Thomas, in his capacity as remote meeting coordinator, read public comments which favored saving the tree.

Chairman Knapp said he would coordinate with the Town Manager regarding future meetings.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Minutes approved as submitted by 3-0 vote in favor on the 23rd day of July 2020.

Jeff Knapp, Chairman