

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

In Person and Virtual Session
April 5, 2022 - 6:00 P.M.

Present: Planning Commission Chairman Jefferson Knapp and Members Chris Thomas, Helen Herman and Cynthia Allen, John Novak, Zoning Officer Kym Kudla, and members of the public.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Knapp called the Planning Commission's regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the Edgar M. Bosley, Jr. Municipal Building, 300 Mill Street, St. Michaels, Maryland.

II. Minutes

- March 15, 2022

The members tabled minute approval to the next meeting.

- Noise Ordinance.

Chairman Knapp opened the floor for public comment.

Doug Rollow of 405 Water Street reviewed the past noise ordinances and compiled a timeline of the history of changes made.

Walda Dupriest-Brandt of 111 Mulberry Street who also submitted a personal letter and a letter signed by multiple residents of Mulberry Street and Cherry Street has lived in other towns who did not permit outdoor amplified music. The music coming from the harbor and Talbot make it difficult to enjoy the indoors or outdoors of her home.

George Galgano of 111 Green Street stated that other noises such as leaf blowers, bulk trash pickup street sweeper etc. that also create noise and need to be considered, he does not agree with eliminating all amplified music.

Karen Wald of 107 Grace Street stated her disagreement with Mr. Galgano. She feels that those properties outside the town limits should not be allowed to adversely affect the town.

Sue Ann Raring of 104 W. Chew Avenue noted that music should not be heard through closed windows and doors, and questioned if we are looking to become the next Ocean City.

Terry Jones of 401 Railroad Avenue thinks there needs to be a balance and not be a party town.

Aida Khalil of 205 Cherry Street agrees that there needs to be a happy medium, in the past few years the noise issue has become a larger issue.

JD Dietrich of 104 Locust Street commented that there is no evidence of the number of complaints or verified violations for noise. Feels music is being targeted with no mention of trash trucks and leaf blowers.

Member Allen added that the meeting is to gather information. Chairman Knapp commented that this meeting is about noise pollution not music although most comments happen to be about music. Member Novak is holding his opinion regarding issue until they gather all the information however he did receive 17 letters regarding noise. He commented on leaf blowers, trash trucks, etc. as a matter of time- that leaf blowers don't last 3-4 hours.

Mark Van Fleet of 200 E Chew Avenue said the town has good codes but not a good approach, they need to be consistent. He commented on the constant construction noises as well.

Don Allen of 402 Railroad Avenue relocated to St. Michaels for the entertainment and does not see any issues as the code stands.

Dan Spiegel of 200 Mulberry Street urges the planning commission to study other municipalities and how they handle outdoor music. The issue raised is amplified music not acoustic music. Feels trash truck at 6 a.m. is also an issue, that residents are reluctant to contact the police department, asks why does this need to be complaint based.

JD Dietrich of 104 Locust Street understands and agreed that the need for correct equipment for enforcement purposes.

Member Khalil spoke regarding the police department and suggested new ways to enforce code.

Chairman Knapp commented that upon discussion with Captain Oswald that the code is not enforceable and would prefer the use of body cams and officer discretion.

Madison Knopp of 116 North Street and Foxy's also disappointed with the lack of evidence, she agrees the current ordinance is fine and commented that a survey was submitted by business owner Terye Knopp some time ago.

The Planning commission agreed to not introduce the survey at this time until members all had a chance to review the survey.

Commissioner DuPont noted that the commissioners have been working on the trash issues as the department of public works are down to only 3 people working.

Al Mercier of 105 Cherry Street said the change in the ordinance in 2015 is a critical piece and to consider the covid crisis in the last couple of years.

Walda DuPriest-Brandt of 111 Mulberry Street commented on the proof of complaints and method for measuring isn't ideal.

Chairman Knapp welcomed all public comments suggesting multiple meetings to discuss further. George Galgano stated that the discussion needs to be all inclusive not simply about music.

Doug Rollow noted that the transition in staffing makes it more difficult to get information out.

Mark Van Fleet would like to know the planning commission's standpoint. Members Allen and Knapp are remaining neutral until more information is gathered.

Chairman Knapp would like to continue the discussion to the April 19th meeting and May 3rd meeting.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 7:12 p.m.

Minutes approved by 4:0 vote in favor on 19th day of April, 2022.

Jefferson Knapp, Chairman