

Present: Jan Finley, Jeanne Peacock, Greg Noyes, Merilyn Mills. Steve Cannon, Denise Cassidy, and Cynthia Morse

At 6:03 Jan Finley, chair, opened a Public Hearing for a special exception request by the Eastport Port Authority to attach two signs over six (6) square feet to the front and rear entrances of the new Port Office building at 141 Water Street. Chris Gardiner director of the Eastport Port Authority presented to the board the original set of plans, which shows the current sign to scale. He stated that the size of the current sign, about 6' by 6' with trim, is needed for approaching boats to be able to see and identify the Port Office Building. He further explained that the Port had already constructed a sign for the rear of the building that is around the 12 square ft. amount allowed and is noticeable smaller than the one in the front. He said that the Planning Board had approved the plans. He requested that the board grant a variance to keep the current sign. He was told that a special exception was needed not a variance. Jan asked Robert Scott if he had received anything from the abutters and he said no. Jan noted that the Port was asking for a special exception for something that was already constructed and she pointed out that the signs are not grandfathered. Jan asked Robert if we had a checklist for builder so they would know what the town requires when a building is constructed. Robert said no. This is something that we should talk about in the coming year as it would be helpful to builders and could be given out when a permit is applied for.

Jan asked what happened to Admiral Hamlet Park. Chris answered that it will be placed pretty much in the same area after construction on the building is completed. Cynthia asked how many office spaces have been rented, he answered 2 spaces & a third one is available. Each of these office windows has a sign made of plastic letters. This is considered a sign. Jan said that she would have suggested to Chris if he had come to the board first that he do a long horizontal sign. The top would have identified the Port Authority and under it there would have been a place to hang signs for each of the business that rented from the Port. These signs could be easily changed as renters come and go. Chris didn't think that window signage constituted a sign. Chris said if they need to come down then so be it and he felt that the Port should be subject to the same standard that is seen thought out the city. Greg pointed out that the sign could be same type of sign that the City has with the constituents listed. Chris stated again that the sign that faces the Breakwater is the sign that is at issue and it serves a purpose. The rear sign is not an issue and if need be can be redone. Merilyn stated that any business could argue that a larger sign would serve a purpose and she didn't see why the port was special. Chris answered so that they can be located from the water. Jeanne spoke for the Chamber and Sea Grant saying it was an absolute necessity for them to have a sign. Jan state that the ordinance clearly states two signs per building but the ZBA has the ability to grant more. Jeanne wanted to know if an office is a premise. Following this there was a discussion that the Port erect a sign consistent with the City of Eastport Signs of which there are several around town. These signs are tastefully done and respectable. It shows that the town cares about what people think. Also it was discussed if large lettering on the windows is necessary. The business could have the lettering on the inside window that faces the inside foyer room. Steve stated that these window signs are not suppose to take the entire window; the signs should

not exceed two square feet. 6-14, 6.21.1.7. Chris stated that he would leave it up to the city and the ZBA to tell him what to do for public bathroom signage. Greg said that the ZPA should be careful not to appear to be restrictive to business. He felt that each of the business has a right to have two signs. This is unclear. Most members disagreed with Greg but felt that it needed to be address in future meetings with the ordinance review committee. Especially if buildings that house more than one business will be constructed in the future.

After Jan closed the discussion part of the Public Hearing, each ZBA member gave their opinion about the current sign and the sign that still needs to be erected. Most members felt that the sign facing the Breakwater should be allowed but not the rear sign and also that the decals in the window should be made smaller and simpler. It was mentioned that the inside windows could be used for larger and more detailed decal signs. Jan also mention that the ZBA needs to address the current sign ordinance and bring them up to date.

Action on the Special Exception: Denise made a motion and Jeanne second, to allow the Port Authority to leave the current sign and add a sign in the rear that is in size compliance with the ordinance and the Port Authority will not allow any other signage until the Zoning Board renders future decisions. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

The rest of the signage will be address at the January meeting. This will need to be a public hearing.

There was a short discussion concerning the US Custom signage if they become a tenant because they are under the Federal Government's jurisdiction.

Minutes: Greg moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Steve second. All approved.

Open Forum: Bud & Elaine Inkster spoke about changing the zoning on a piece of property on the Staniel Road. They are upset because it is currently being used to store fishing equipment and other things. The storage area looks like a junkyard. The board was sympathetic with the Inkster's and feels that part of their mission is to protect personal property. The board is trying to utilize a "good neighbors" type policy whenever possible. However the board was not able to help them and it informed the Inkster's that the Planning Board might be able to help them and Jan would give them names and phone numbers of some of the Planning Board members. It was pointed out that there are several locations in Eastport that are acquiring many junk items.

Next meeting will be Tuesday Jan. 27 6:00 and it will be devoted to further signage for the Port. The board was asked by Jan to talk with the Eastport community about what they thing about signage.

Point of clarification the Susan Fisher home business does not convey to new ownership.

Cynthia motioned to adjourn and Denise second. All were in favor.