

**Chairman Robert S. Knox called to order a meeting of the North Scituate District Review Committee (VDRC) on March 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.. Members present were Mark Laprade, Norma Knox, Barbara S. Stetson and George Myrick. Charles R. McCaughey was absent.**

**Motion was made by Norma Knox and seconded by Mark Laprade to accept the minutes of December 21, 2006 , unanimously voted to accept.**

**Chairman Knox informed the committee members that David Provonsil would be attending tonight's meeting to discuss signage in the village district.**

## **APPLICATIONS**

**Chair Robert S. Knox stated that no applications were presented for this meeting. He was informed that an application was forthcoming regarding signage at Bentley's Tavern. As of this meeting no application was received.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Committee members discussed items that should be included in a brochure regarding information about the North Scituate Village Overlay District Committee. This would be available to property owners in the North Scituate Village District area.**

**David Provonsil informed the committee members that he gave Bentley's Tavern a certificate of occupancy based upon the understanding that the owner would be responsible for bringing the signage on the property to conformance. Richard Lang told Mr.**

Provonsil that he intended to subdivide the properties. The old "Famous Creamery" sign would have been located on a separate piece of property than that of Bentley's Tavern. As of this date Mr. Provonsil stated that the lots have been split per approval of the Planning Board. The old "Famous Creamery" sign had been refaced with a Bentley's Tavern sign. Mr. Provonsil along with a member of the police department hand delivered a letter to Mr. Lang stating that the sign must come down. Mr. Lang informed Mr. Provonsil that he would take down the sign and put up an American flag. Mr. Lang put up a picture of a flag on the sign post. Mr. Provonsil said that he believes that he can not classify a picture of flag as a sign. The Zoning Ordinance definition of a sign reads, "Any display of letters, numbers and/or visual display which directs attention to a residence, permitted business, commodity or service which is conducted, sold or offered." If Mr. Lang was selling flags at Bentley's Tavern, Mr. Provonsil said than this would be considered a sign. Since Mr. Lang is not selling flags the "Flag Sign" is not a sign. This decision can be appealed by any committee. In a letter from Gorham & Gorham (council for the Town of Scituate), Mr. Provonsil read that Federal law states that the words "flags, standard, colors or ensign" as used herein shall include any flag, standard, colors, ensign, or any picture or representation of either , or any part or parts of either, made of any substance or any size evidently purporting to be either of said flag, standard flag, standard colors, or ensign of the United States of America or picture or a representation of either, upon which shall be shown the colors, the stars and the stripes, in any number of either

thereof, or any part or parts of either, by which the average person seeing the same without deliberation may believe the same to represent the flag, colors, standard, or ensign of the United States of America.

Mr. Provonsil stated that even though the Federal Law states that the display of the “flag” is protected but it is not exempt from the Zoning Ordinance.

Chairman Knox said that a “flag” definition is cloth. Chairman Knox asked the question of whether or not the “flag” can be internally lit. Mr. Provonsil said that there are no building codes or zoning code saying that you can’t light the interior of a structure. Now we need to amend the code to address such issue.

Mr. Provonsil said now is the time for the committee members to go through the Village District Overlay Ordinances and discuss any possible changes they would like made and make it known to the Planning Board.

Mr. Provonsil also said that the Overlay Committee could hire an expert to help with lighting issues. Any money necessary for the project could come from the Zoning Enforcement money. This purchase order should be in by March 26, 2007, so it will come out of 2006/2007 budget.

The committee members and Mr. Provonsil discussed the enforcing the sunset law for signs. Mr. Provonsil spoke with the owner of the hardware store and told him that the hardware sign is not in conformance. Mr. Provonsil said that he has repeatedly told the owner that something must be done to the sign. The owner told him

that he is trying to get the necessary money to get a new sign. Mr. Provonsil stated that he feels uncomfortable making him take down the sign, due to the fact that he is a small business owner. Barbara S. Stetson discussed the possibility of having two or three sign designs available to small business owners; this way here the business owner would have some idea of what the cost of a sign would be. Mark Laprade said a possible solution could be grant money. Barbara S. Stetson stated that some applicants due as they please.

Mr. Provonsil said he will look into the banner located on the outside of the Village Bean.

Chairman Knox informed Mr. Provonsil that Mr. Lang signed his survey plan dated February 19, 2004 as the only signage for Bentley's Tavern would be the etching located on the front door and that this would be the only sign. The other signs that have been put up on the property have gotten no approvals. Mr. Provonsil stated that he will inform Mr. Lang that the "sign" in the second story window must be recorded as a sign.

## **OTHER BUSINESS-CORRESPONDENCE**

Barbara S. Stetson informed the committee members about an upcoming Scituate Quilts and Needlework Show on May 12, 2007.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Norma Knox and seconded by Barbara S. Stetson to adjourn at 8:15 p.m., unanimously voted to accept.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Kathleen E. Blaine**

**Secretary**