

Draft #1

Town of Damariscotta  
Planning Board Meeting  
July 6, 2015  
Minutes

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Jonathan Eaton, Chairman, Wilder Hunt, Vice-Chairman, Shari Sage, Stephen Cole and Bruce Garren. Also present was Town Planner, Anthony Dater.

Audience: Pam Olson, Robert Olson, Dick McLean, Bob Reny, Rem Briggs, Pam Gormley, Mal Gormley, David Atwater, Russell Brackett.

**MINUTES**

The Board reviewed Minutes from June 1, 2015 Meeting. **On Motion Cole/Sage to approve as written. Vote 5-0.**

The Board reviewed Minutes from June 15, 2015 Public Hearing. **On Motion Garren/Hunt to approve as written. Vote 5-0.**

**A. OLD BUSINESS**

Preparation of New Stand-Alone Sign Ordinance: Major points of discussion:

- Sandwich boards are a problem on Main Street downtown during summer. State law disallows sandwich board signs (SB signs) in the right-of-way (row). Selectmen enforce 36" (3 ft.) unobstructed clearance for ADA. Violating signs are taken to Town lot. Two businesses have been fighting about placement of SB sign on Main Street. Over 4<sup>th</sup> of July a lot of SB signs were blocking Main Street.
- Let's combine some nearby town's sign ordinances for a new Damariscotta stand-alone ordinance. Signs will be allowed but regulated. Every Route One town has its own sign ordinance.
- There are no SB signs in the new sidewalk bump-outs on Main Street. Signs on utility poles are illegal. Skidompha Library has a SB sign – it has a need for the public to know of its activities. Radio Shack has a SB sign on Main Street to advertise its Elm Street Plaza location. Signs are needed for backlots like Radio Shack – directional signs.
- SB signs need to be regulated as to size and placement to not jeopardize public safety. Talk to Police Chief about safety issues concerning signs.

- 'The Lady's Room' store at Elm Street Plaza has off-premises signs, which are needed to support its business.
- Get the Chamber of Commerce to secure an agreement between businesses to deal with directory signs for multiple off-premises businesses. Remember the clutter of signs at the old Main Street/Bristol Road intersection. There were even signs for businesses in other towns (Bristol, S. Bristol).
- The new ADA rule may be 4 or 5 feet of unobstructed sidewalk. Town Planner was assigned to check ADA and Maine DOT rules for sidewalks and report back to Planning Board. Town Planner was also assigned to secure the Newcastle and Waldoboro sign ordinances and forward them to Board members for review for the August meeting.

**B. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

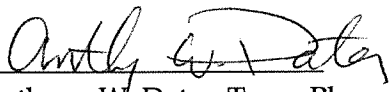
**C. OTHER**

David Atwater stated that the new Hoffman Pawn Shop on Rt. 1B next to GSB School has only a CEO Land Use Permit and not a Conditional Use Permit via Site Plan Ordinance review by the Planning Board. But because Hoffman is placing a large amount of goods for sale outdoors seemingly permanently, he needs a conditional use permit from the Board resulting from site plan review. It was apparently Hoffman's choice not to seek a conditional use permit for outdoor storage at his new pawn shop. The CEO made clear that without a conditional use permit Hoffman could not have outdoor storage. Hoffman therefore needs to pay a fine for outdoor storage without a conditional use permit. The CEO has a written a letter to that effect to Hoffman.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On Motion Cole/Garren to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Vote 5-0.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Anthony W. Dater, Town Planner

Damariscotta Planning Board - Minutes July 6, 2015 Meeting

We, the undersigned, do hereby approve as written, or with changes as noted, the Minutes of the July 6, 2015 Planning Board meeting.



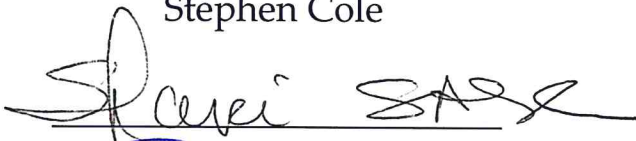
Jonathan Eaton, Chairman



Wilder Hunt, Vice- Chairman



Stephen Cole



Shari Sage



Bruce Garren

Dated



