Members Present: Thad Presby (Chair), Keith Batchelder, Cort Roussel, Eric Meth, Mary Grote, and Mark Hesler (7:15)

Others Present: Kim Cowles

A regular meeting of the Franconia Planning Board was held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, at the Franconia Town Hall.

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by Thad Presby.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 25, 2020 meeting. Eric Meth made a motion to accept the minutes as written, second by Thad Presby. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

**7:10PM – Julie Weisman, Voluntary Merger.** Thad stated that Julie Weisman has property on Route 116 and has applied for a voluntary lot merger. She has two lots (12 acres and 19.37 acres) and is merging them together because the house site is where the property line is. The Board’s duty is to make sure they are not creating a lot that less conforming then it was and they are not.

The Board was in agreement to have Thad sign the voluntary lot merger on behalf of the Planning Board.

Keith Batchelder stated there was an application by the Iron Furnace Brewery to the ZBA to install an antenna on their property; however, there was confusion about what rules applied or didn’t apply. It turns out there is a Wireless Telecommunication Facilities Ordinance which falls under the purview of the Planning Board, at least initially. So, the brewery will be submitting an application to the Planning Board for an antenna and it also looks like they are going to have to get some variances to make that happen.

**7:15PM – Sign Ordinance** – Kim Cowles stated she has received several complaints from different people about different signs in town and it all relates to temporary signs. It has nothing to do with the permanent sign ordinance. The temporary sign ordinance says you need to fill out a permit and there is a two-week window for it to be displayed. If you go up and down Main Street no one is in compliance with the temporary sign ordinance because no one has filled out a permit for any of these signs. As a business owner you need to put the word out and we don’t want to stop any of that; however, the Board needs to discuss this ordinance and decide what changes need to be made. Thad stated that any change to the Zoning Ordinance would require two public hearings and a vote at Town meeting.

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding what adjustments might be made to the sign ordinance (i.e. eliminate the temporary sign ordinance altogether, eliminate the need for a permit for a temporary sign, limit the size of the sign, length of time it’s displayed, incorporate the temporary sign under the permanent sign section, limit how it is mounted/displayed, and no signs with movement/motorized, sound, or light).

Keith Batchelder made a motion to propose at Town Meeting that the Board change Section 9 (c) to say, “All permanent signs shall require a permit to be issued by the Board of Selectmen…”, second by Eric Meth.

Keith stated this would eliminate the town office dealing with whether or not someone has a permit for a temporary sign. Thad stated the Board had until January to finalize any changes to the ordinance and did not need to make an immediate decision. The Motion passed by Board vote.

Thad recommended all board members review the ordinance and decide on what, if any, changes should be made and the Board will discuss the ordinance at the next meeting.

After a motion and a second, the meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Wills