

**May 10, 2021**  
**STEILACOOM PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**Vice Chair Braddock** called the regular meeting of the Steilacoom Planning Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. using the Zoom platform.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Vice Chair Braddock, Ms Carr, Ms Bittenbender, Mr. Boyle, Ms Grasher** and **Mr. Miner** were present on the platform. **Chair Cable** was excused. Staff member present was Planner Fortner, Town Administrator Loveless was the meeting host.

**Approval of Minutes**  
March 8, 2021

The minutes of March 8, 2021 were approved.

**Public Comment**

None

**Sign Code Update**  
AB 275

**Vice Chair Braddock** requested the staff report. Mr. Fortner recapped the *Reed v. Gilbert* Supreme Court case that requires sign codes to have content neutral regulations. The proposal before the Commission includes provisions from the City of Lakewood code to address the content neutrality issue.

**Ms Grasher** suggested a more robust Purpose section to include historic preservation and suggested looking at Port Townsend's code. **Ms Bittenbender** suggested looking at Mukilteo's code.

**Ms Bittenbender** suggested spelling out the full title of the Master Planned Development zone, rather than just using the initials. **Ms Braddock** questioned why the zone was exempted from these regulations at all. **Ms Carr** suggested that the signs in the new zone be required to no less generous than those in the rest of Town. **Ms Bittenbender** emphasized that the zone should be integrated into the Town as much as possible.

**Ms Grasher** said the Commission needs to look at the definitions along with the rest of the code. Mr. Fortner will supply definitions at the next meeting.

The Commission felt that the current maximum sign height of 20 feet seemed too tall. **Ms Braddock** felt the

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limit should be for free-standing signs, not wall signs. Lakewood's limit of 10 feet seemed more in keeping with the Town's esthetic.

**Ms Carr** felt the calculation for signs made of free-standing letters was vague and needed revision for clarity.

**Ms Carr** felt that an exempt 3-foot square sign in residential neighborhoods would be unnecessary. Mr. Fortner will look into barring off-premises signs in residential neighborhoods.

The signs on the school district softball field were discussed. **Ms Carr** suggested exempting school district signage.

Mr. Fortner will look into drafting a section on historic signs to allow preservation and replacement.

**Mr. Boyle** suggested not allowing digital signs, and the Commission agreed. Those signs will be moved to the prohibited section.

**Ms Carr** suggested not allowing pole signs, and the Commission agreed. Those signs will be moved to the prohibited section.

**Ms Grasher** suggested reviewing the City of DuPont's temporary sign provisions.

Mr. Fortner will add a reference to the general non-conforming regulations to the sign code.

The Commission agreed to review a new draft at its next meeting.

**Reports**

Mr. Fortner reported that the Council approved the new zone for the mill at their April 20 meeting. Nothing further has been heard regarding the plat on Union Avenue. Building continues at Norberg Estates and Tasanee.

**Adjournment**

The Commission adjourned at 7:59 PM

