

**New York Mills Zoning Committee
Regular Meeting
June 25, 2013
1:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The regular meeting of the New York Mills Zoning Committee was called to order at 1:19 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, New York Mills, Minnesota, all members of the Committee having been notified of the meeting. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Chairperson Dianna Wallgren, Greg Imsande, Tim Johnson, Ken Peltier

Members Absent: Jann Lee, Mike Parta, Jason Schik

Staff Present: Zoning Administrator Dave Delaney, Administrative Assistant Cheri Kopveiler

Call to Order: The regular June meeting of the New York Mills Zoning Committee was called to order at 1:19 pm by Chairperson Dianna Wallgren. **A quorum was present.**

Approval of Minutes: **A motion was made by K. Peltier to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013 meeting, seconded by G. Imsande and carried without a dissenting vote.**

Old Business: A. Zoning Changes—

1. Temporary Fences—

The Zoning Committee discussed whether changes were necessary to the temporary fence portion of the ordinance. Several instances have come up where fences have been put up on private property, such as snow fences in the summer or other fences that appear to be permanent fences but are not intended to be up for a long time. The Committee agreed that if they are pounding posts into the ground that are significant, they would need a permit, even if they aren't up for extended periods of time. After discussion, they decided to leave this part of the ordinance the way it is currently written.

2. Playground Equipment/Flagpoles/Playhouses—

Chairperson Wallgren asked committee members to review the portion structures such as playground equipment, flagpoles and playhouses. She stated that there is a gray area as to whether a permit should be required for these. Discussion ensued. T. Johnson suggested that a permit be required any time the applicant has to dig in the ground, such as footings for playground equipment or to dig a post in the ground. Members agreed.

3. Signs—Scrolling/Flashing—

Administrative Assistant C. Kopveiler asked the Zoning Committee to

look at the regulations on signs which light up, scroll or have flashing images. Members agreed that scrolling or flashing signs were not a problem in commercial districts as long as they didn't interfere with traffic but felt that they may need to be regulated in residential areas. They also felt the portion (I) of the ordinance under unauthorized signs which stated signs containing more than two surface areas was unnecessary.

4. Window Signs—

The Committee discussed whether window signs should require a permit. Discussion ensued. They felt that permits should not be required if messages are painted directly on the glass, or temporary signs are placed for sales in the windows. Permanent signs affixed in the window or window area would require a permit. Section 3, Unauthorized Signs, subdivision H states that any sign which obstructs any window, door, fire escape, stairway or opening essential to the provision of light, air, ingress or egress from any building is not allowed. After discussion, it was felt that covering windows temporarily for sales, etc. with paper could be allowed. The words "light" and "air" will be removed from the statement allowing for this. Signs must still not block ingress or egress from a building for public safety.

New Business:

A. Zoning Administrator's Report—

Zoning Administrator Dave Delaney reported on permits issued in the past month. He also asked the Zoning Committee's feelings on accessory structures in yards such as fish houses and hunting shacks. He asked at what point they are considered temporary or mobile as fish houses may be stored on a trailer or on the ground. Discussion ensued. K. Peltier suggested that anything that has a current license such as a fish house, would not need a permit. A hunting shack stored on the ground would need a permit just like a storage shed.

B. Other New Business—

None

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Dianna Wallgren at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Cheri Kopveiler
Administrative Assistant/Zoning

