

**New York Mills Zoning Committee  
Regular Meeting  
April 30, 2015  
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 1:00 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, Jann Lee, Greg Imsande, Jeff Oakland, Ken Peltier, Mike Parta

**Members Absent:** Tim Johnson

**Staff Present:** Administrative Assistant Cheri Kopveiler, Zoning Administrator David Delaney

**Call to Order:** The regular April meeting of the New York Mills Zoning Committee was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairperson Dianna Wallgren. **A quorum was present.**

**Approval of Minutes:** **A motion was made by Jeff Oakland to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2015 meeting, seconded by Jann Lee and carried without a dissenting vote.**

**Old Business:**

A. Ordinance Revisions—

1. Scoreboards/Community Billboards—

The Zoning Committee discussed the fact that our ordinance which forbids billboards from being placed within city limits would also apply to scoreboards, community billboards and similar signs by civic organizations. This was not the intention when the ordinance was put into place. It was decided that under Section VIII-Administration and Enforcement, (2) Exemptions, the sentence under B. shall be changed to “Signs used exclusively for the posting or display of official notices *or public events which is controlled by a public agency or official*, or required by law to be displayed by a public utility for directional warning or informational purposes, are not subject to the regulations of this chapter.” An additional exemption will be added as “H. Scoreboards, with or without electronic features, including changeable copy, illumination and flashing or moving displays placed upon public property.”

2. Changeable Copy Signs & Flashing/Moving/Glaring Signs—

Under Section IX-General Provisions, (3) Unauthorized Signs, (F. Flashing, moving, glaring signs) a sentence will be added which states: “Changeable copy signs, including time and temperature, business or message signs not otherwise prohibited under this regulation will be allowed, provided they do not create a hazardous or annoying glare.

3. Official/Traffic/Directional Signs—

The Committee discussed signs which mimic traffic signs. It was pointed out that the Whistle Stop Bed & Breakfast has a railroad crossing sign in its front yard. It was suggested to exempt signs that are clearly ornamental and not placed in areas that could be confused with traffic signs. Under the same section referred to above (Unauthorized Signs) Paragraph A will be changed to read as follows: “Any sign, signal, marking or device which purports to be or is imitation of or resembles any official traffic control device or railroad sign or signal, or emergency vehicle signal *so as to confuse or interfere with the effectiveness of any official traffic control device or any railroad sign or signal*, or which incorporates or makes use of light simulating or resembling traffic signals and control lights, or any sign containing a rotating beam or beam of light resembling emergency vehicles. *Ornamental signs of unconventional size or location which are clearly not placed in areas which could be mistaken for official traffic control signs are not included.*”

4. Law Changes/Rebuilding/Replacing Nonconforming Structures

C. Kopveiler noted that there has been a change in the law regarding nonconforming structures. Changes were made in the General Requirements sections to Section R, Paragraphs 1, 5, 6 and 7 to reflect those laws changes. Nonconforming structures may now be replaced as well as maintained. There are stipulations on any expansion as spelled out in the new verbage.

***A motion was made by Mike Parta to make the changes to the zoning ordinance as presented by C. Kopveiler. Motion was seconded by Greg Imsande and carried without a dissenting vote.***

A discussion was held regarding the percentage of square footage allowed for a home business in a residential district. It was decided to leave this at 25% since the change has been made to consider both the square footage of the main structure and the main accessory structure if the use is located in that accessory structure.

The Zoning Committee also looked at decks in front yards. They agreed that the main purpose of the 30’ front setback was to keep houses in a uniform line down the block. The Committee felt that a deck on the front should not be considered as part of the principal structure in determining front setbacks. If it is an enclosed or screened in deck (porch) it would be considered part of the main structure. C. Kopveiler will work on re-wording the ordinance to reflect this.

**New Business:**

A. Zoning Administrator’s Report—

Zoning Administrator Dave Delaney reported that there have been several smaller projects for fences and signs. Bill Warner has begun building a storage warehouse along Centennial 84 Drive, Mid State Auto Auction is tearing down a small building and building a 70' x 72' registration building on their lot in the Industrial Park. He discussed the new scoreboard being placed at the Smith Park baseball field and noted that the old scoreboard is going to be moved to the school grounds.

**Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting of the Zoning Committee will be held on Tuesday May 26, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:           The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Dianna Wallgren at 1:45 pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by,

Cheri Kopveiler  
Administrative Assistant/Zoning