

Charter and Ordinance Review Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2007

The Bethany Beach Charter and Ordinance Review Committee held a meeting on Thursday, August 16, 2007 in the Town Meeting Room.

Members present: Tony McClenny, Chairman, who presided: Jerry Dorfman, Chuck Peterson, and Fulton Loppatto

Excused: Jim Etcechury and Dowell Anders

Also present: John Fields, Town Council Member from South Bethany; John Eckrich, Building Inspector; JoAnna Nichols, Administrative Secretary and interested members of the public.

Call to Order

Mr. McClenny called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. He welcomed Mr. John Fields, Town Council member from South Bethany as well as other guests in the audience.

Approval of the Agenda

Mr. Loppatto made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Mr. Peterson and unanimously approved.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Loppatto and unanimously approved.

(Mr. Dorfman abstained.)

Old Business

Smoking on the Beach

Mr. McClenny opened the discussion by asking Mr. Fields to share his opinion on the matter. Mr. Fields stated that South Bethany is currently undergoing the same project and anticipate the banning of smoking in 2008.

Next, committee members heard comments from several different members of the audience/community. Carol Boyer, a Bethany Beach resident, said she feels this entire ordinance is somewhat ridiculous and wonders how it could and would be enforced. She also mentioned the possibility that by doing this, it could deter visitors from coming here. She inquired if you weren't allowed to smoke on beach, would people smoke in the ocean or worse, on the boardwalk (where it could potentially be more dangerous).

Deborah Brown, a representative from the American Lung Association spoke next. She stated that being around second hand smoke for more than twenty minutes could not only enhance asthma attacks in small children but it's also been known to contribute to heart attacks.

Another member of the audience and resident, Jim Straumburg, said he understood the idea of no smoking in confined areas, but in such a wide open space was unbelievable. He completely disagreed.

After hearing comments, Mr. McClenny thanked those for coming and sharing their concerns. He then suggested to committee members that they discuss this issue again at next month's meeting at which time a vote can be expected and recommended to Council.

All agreed.

Commercial Landscaping and Grass Cutting

Overall, committee members felt that anyone conducting business in the town should have a license.

In regards to having set hours of operation (as the town does for construction companies), the Code Enforcement Officer and the Building Inspector will make their recommendations at the next CORC meeting.

Unfinished Construction

Mr. McClenny asked if developers/contractors should be required to complete all exterior work on a building as well as finish any landscaping, walkway, driveway, etc. even if the inside work has to be postponed. He stated this would at least give the appearance that the construction is complete.

Since no decision could be made at this time, it was agreed to revisit this issue at the September meeting.

There were no objections.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2007, at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

JoAnna Nichols, Administrative Sec.