

ATM 24 - School Info Display Boards – Amend Zoning Bylaw

minutes from 1/20/16 A&F meeting

Lee Hartmann, Director of Planning and Development, presented Article 24. In 2013 an article was brought to Town Meeting to amend zoning bylaws to allow internally illuminated school information display boards. A Town Meeting motion limited this article for use at Plymouth North High School only. State law requires the town to be uniform. This article will allow the same to be installed at Plymouth South High School, this time 633 feet off Long Pond Road.

Questions:

- Wouldn't the sign be more effective right on the main street like it is on Obery Street so it can be used to announce elections and such to the entire population driving by? (S Joyce) Superintendent Gary Maestas responded that based on discussion at the 2013 Town Meeting, it was clear that the LED lights could be a distraction to homes and since there are homes at the entrance to Plymouth South High School, it was a strategically responsible solution to move the sign 633 feet off the main road, face it towards trees and not homes, and limit usage from 7AM-10PM to help the article get passed.
- Why limit this to only high schools? (B Cavacco) Based on the 2013 Town Meeting feedback, and the fact that a 2/3 vote is required to pass this, the decision to limit this to the high schools is supported by the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen.
- Since Plymouth South Middle School uses the same entrance as Plymouth South High School and they will most likely utilize the sign as well, will PCIS then make the same request for uniformity? (C Merrill) PCIS has a relatively new letter based sign. It is best to look at doing this one school at a time.
- If this is for high school use only, why would PSMS use it? (K Canty) Zoning is involved with the physical location of the sign but can not control its content.
- This seems intrinsically non-uniform. Do you feel it would be difficult to pass this zoning bylaw for the high school and the middle schools? (K Canty) Yes, that would be difficult.
- What is the cost of this sign? (H Helm) \$5,000, 50% will be paid by MSBA.

Harry Salerno made a motion to recommend Article 24 to Town Meeting. Chris Merrill, second. The motion passes unanimously (13-0-0).