

**SIGN COMMITTEE  
MINUTES APRIL 30, 2018  
APPROVED**

**Present:** Mark Haddad, Carolyn Perkins, Josh Degen

**Also Present:** Dawn Dunbar

Mr. Haddad called meeting to order at 6:00pm

**GROTONWOOD – DAN EVERETT**

Mr. Haddad asked about the size of the sign and the location being proposed. Ms. Dunbar said that the sign dimensions met the requirements under the regulations. Mr. Everett said that they wanted to place the sign on 119 but move it closer to the entrance of Grotonwood.

*Ms. Perkins moved to approve the signs as proposed. Mr. Haddad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

**HERBICIDE TREATMENT SIGNS – BRAD HARPER**

Mr. Harper said that they had been doing herbicide treatments on Lost Lake since 2013. He said that the signs proposed were to make residents aware of upcoming treatments and would include the date of the treatment and restrictions that would be limited. He said that in the past, they would hang paper notices which was labor intensive and would disintegrate in the rain. He said they were looking for more sustainable ways of notifying people.

Mr. Degen arrived at 6:06pm.

Mr. Harper said that the plan was to place the signs at the major entrances to the lake. Mr. Haddad said he thought this was a great idea. He suggested they approve the installation of the signs and give Mr. Harper an opportunity to work out the final wording for them to approve. Ms. Perkins asked what the size of the signs were. Mr. Degen said they appeared to be about 3.5 high x 20 wide. Mr. Harper said that they would also email all residents and post the treatments on Facebook.

*Ms. Perkins moved that they approve the sign proposal as presented by the Groton Lakes Association for temporary signs to restrict use of Lost Lake/Knopps Pond during herbicide treatments. Mr. Degen seconded the motion adding that final wording be subject to Town Manager approval. Ms. Perkins approved of that language. The motion carried unanimously.*

**LIGHTING ON RELIGIOUS SIGNS**

Town Counsel David Doneski was present. Attorney Doneski said that the definition of a sign was broad. He said that the special provisions section of paragraph C of the Sign Bylaw listed displays that were exempt from the bylaw. He said that they could not limit content neutrality adding he was not sure he had ever seen this before but thought a landscape regulation might apply to this. Mr. Haddad said he was under the assumption that the Committee could not regulate religious signs. Attorney Doneski said that as a general proposition that was correct. Mr. Degen said if they started opening it up to landscape lighting it would go back to the fact that the lights should be shielded. Attorney Doneski said he would take this as a complete exemption and it wouldn't apply no matter what. Ms. Perkins said she understood that they couldn't regulate free speech but asked if they could regulate intrusive lighting. Attorney Doneski said that the wording was quite broad in this circumstance adding they could ask that they modify the lighting would couldn't make them. Ms. Deb Mendel said that she found several towns they had provisions in their bylaws restricting illumination. Attorney Doneski said that they could look at other avenues. Mr. Haddad said that they could ask the owners to modify their lighting. Ms. Mendel said that her problem was not about the crosses but more so about the lighting on Route

40 being a distraction to the drivers. She said she also had a problem with the flashing lights all night long on a residential property. Ms. Perkins said that this was protected speech. Mr. Haddad agreed adding they couldn't prohibit the symbol. Mr. Haddad asked Attorney Doneski to further review the information provided by Ms. Mendel. Ms. Perkins asked for a copy of the summary of the recent SJC ruling on this topic. Mr. Degen cautioned them about following other communities adding they may restrict this practice but didn't mean it was legal.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Degen moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 12, 2018. Mr. Haddad seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Dunbar  
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Approved: