

**Town of Amherst  
Planning Commission Minutes  
July 1, 2020**

A meeting of the Town of Amherst Planning Commission was called to order by Chairperson June Driskill in the Council Chambers of Town Hall at 174 S. Main Street at 7:00 PM on July 1, 2020.

It was noted that a quorum was present as indicated below:

P	June Driskill	A	William Jones
A	Kevin Belcher	P	Anne Webster Day
A	Ted Finney	P	Clifford Hart
P	Janice N. Wheaton		

Town Manager Sara Carter and Clerk of Council Vicki Hunt, in her capacity as Secretary to the Commission, were present.

The minutes from the June 3, 2020, Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Ms. Day, and carried according to the following:

June Driskill	Aye		Clifford Hart	Aye
Kevin Belcher	Absent		Anne Webster Day	Aye
Ted Finney	Absent		William Jones	Absent
Janice Wheaton	Aye			

**Sign Ordinance**

A revised proposed amendment of the Town of Amherst Zoning Ordinance (Article IX. Special Provisions, Section 18.1-908.06 Signs), the purpose of which is to allow works of art to be displayed in the Town without a sign permit, was provided to the Commission.

After a report by Town Manager Carter, and discussions concerning size limitations and locations, the Commissioners decided that, if allowed, the amendment to the Town of Amherst Zoning Ordinance (Article IX. Special Provisions, Section 18.1-908.06 Signs) should be as follows:

Works of Art. Works of art that do not contain any commercial messages or references and are constructed or displayed under the auspices of a locally based government agency. Size is limited to a square footage that is equal to the linear road frontage of the parcel the sign is placed on multiplied by 0.5. Works of art can only be on commercially zoned property on Routes 29 bypass, 29 business, or Route 60. All other ordinance requirements apply.

After further discussion, Mr. Hart made a motion seconded by Ms. Day not to amend the Town of Amherst Zoning Ordinance (Article IX. Special Provisions, Section 18.1-908.06 Signs), which would allow works of art to be displayed in the Town without a sign permit. The motion carried 3-1 as follows:

June Driskill	Aye		Clifford Hart	Aye
Kevin Belcher	Absent		Anne Webster Day	Aye

Ted Finney	Absent	William Jones	Absent
Janice Wheaton	Nay		

After further discussion, Ms. Day made a motion seconded by Mr. Hart that should Town Council remand the matter back to the Commission to hold a public hearing, a public hearing will be held at its next meeting on August 5, 2020, on the proposed amendment of the Town of Amherst Zoning Ordinance (Article IX. Special Provisions, Section 18.1-908.06 Signs). The motion carried 4-0 according to the following:

June Driskill	Aye	Clifford Hart	Aye
Kevin Belcher	Absent	Anne Webster Day	Aye
Ted Finney	Absent	William Jones	Absent
Janice Wheaton	Aye		

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7: 47 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
June Driskill, Chairperson

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

