

**Town of Amherst
Planning Commission Minutes
September 2, 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 September 2, 2020.

As a result of COVID-19 cautionary restrictions and limited space the below members and staff met in person and electronically via virtual meeting in the event persons wishing to avoid attending could still address the Commissioners during the public hearing from home.

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

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

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

The minutes from the July 1, 2020, Commission meeting were approved on a motion by Ms. Wheaton, seconded by Mr. Hart, and carried 6-0 according to the following:

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

Public Hearing on Sign Ordinance

Interim Town Manager Payne gave a report on a proposed amendment to the Town of Amherst Zoning Ordinance (Article IX. Special Provisions, Section 18.1-908.06 Signs), which would, if approved, allow works of art to be displayed in the Town without a sign permit, arising out of the Amherst Chamber of Commerce interest in erecting a “LOVE” sculpture at the County Visitor Center. Currently, there is no provision in the Ordinance that would allow this type of sign or works of art.

The Chair opened a duly advertised public hearing at 7:07 PM on a proposed amendment of the Town of Amherst Zoning Ordinance (Article IX. Special Provisions, Section 18.1-908.06 Signs), which would, if approved, allow works of art to be displayed in the Town without a sign permit.

There being no one present or remotely who wished to speak on the matter, the public hearing was closed at 7:10 PM.

After discussion, Ms. Day made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Jones to recommend that Town Council not 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 via roll call carried 4-2 as follows:

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM on motion by Mr. Finney seconded by Ms. Day.

June Driskill, Chairperson

Attest: _____
Secretary

