

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING
PLANNING COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 2, 2022**

The West Reading Planning Commission met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chair Philip Wert; Members Jennifer Bressler, Daniel Horman, Cody Rhoads, Mariella Napoli, Kacie Rodriguez, and James Keller; Zoning Officer Cathy Hoffman; Assistant Zoning Officer Chad Moyer. Vice-Chair Christopher Lincoln and Member Zanna Leienhecker were unable to attend.

Visitors Reporter

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the October 5, 2022 minutes. **Moved** by Mr. Keller and seconded by Ms. Rodriguez. **Motion carried 7-0.**

New Business

- a. **Code Red/Code Blue for Animals** – The discussion concerning the possibility of enacting a Code Red/ Code Blue for animals was again discussed and Mr. Wert referred to an email from Dog Warden Lisa Cronk. Dean Murray explained that Ms. Cronk can only enforce situations of abuse or extreme neglect and referred him to the ARL for Code Red/Code Blue information. Mr. Wert said that discussion at the last meeting included whether existing State law covers the enforcement of Code Red/Code Blue. Information has been requested from the ARL and staff are waiting for a response.

Also discussed was the Borough's agreement with the ARL and it was noted that the Dog Warden recommended changes to the wording for 'dangerous dog' under B.1 (a). Discussion ensued regarding when a dog is deemed dangerous, when a judge gets involved, and what it means for the Borough. It was also noted that serious dog issues are rare and that the new ordinance section deals with most of the issues, however it remains to be decided if the Borough can enact a Code Red/Code Blue and if the ARL can enforce it, like they do for the City of Reading.

Also of question was whether our Police Department deals with animal issues currently and what action they would take in an extreme weather situation. In order to gain some specific answers, discussions will be had with our Police Chief, the solicitor and the Executive Director of the ARL.

- b. **Rental Occupancy Ordinance** – A memo from solicitor Colin Macfarlane was reviewed concerning language for the proposed rental occupancy ordinance amendment. His recommendation in situations with a tenant's repeated disruptive conduct, rather than requiring the owner to evict the tenant, is to revoke the rental permit. This focuses on the landlord's actions in allowing the conduct to continue rather than the tenant's behavior, thereby avoiding potential legal issues. Much discussion ensued regarding how this could be implemented and potential issues that might arise. As there is no proposed language existing to revoke a rental

permit, this will be requested from Mr. Macfarlane. As well, a representative from Kozloff will be asked to attend the next meeting for further discussion.

- c. **Political Sign Review** – Solicitor’s comments will hopefully be available for the December meeting.
- d. **Wireless Communication Facilities** – Act 50 was passed in 2021 concerning wireless facilities which details significant changes to the existing regulations. SDE assisted with the amendments in the past, therefore they will be asked to facilitate the necessary amendments to the existing ordinance.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. by Mr. Keller and seconded by Ms. Bressler.

Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Zoning Officer