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Debby Willis, Chairperson
Angelia Christopher, Administrative Assistant

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Monday November 20, 2023

Gardiner City Council Room

1. Call the meeting to order- Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 5pm.
2. Roll Call- Chair Debby Willis, Rusty Greenleaf, Lisa St. Hilaire, Doug Baston, Joel Greenwood, Kris McNeill. Pat Hart and Clare Marron were unable to attend.
3. Review of October 16, 2023, meeting notes- Rusty Greenleaf moved to accept the minutes as presented. Lisa St. Hilaire seconded the motion. No further discussion. All present, in favor
4. Firepits-This standard is geared more to residential backyard, recreational fires. There have been complaints about smoke, fires being held irresponsibly (too close to buildings and vehicles), and some feel they could pose a hazard. True open burning, bonfires, is permitted through the Maine Forest Service. The committee decided that fires should only be allowed if more than 10' away from any structure or combustible. Also, fires should on be lit with materials that are intended to burn, and not with chemicals or anything that could cause noxious fumes. Joel will work on this and bring it back to the committee.
5. Theater House Signage-Johnson Hall will be open soon, and as a theater venue, they would like a bigger sign.so they can advertise upcoming events. They want to increase the size of the projecting sign that is used to 18sf. Joel will work on making changes to the table and adding a note, which states a bigger sign can only be used for a theater. Joel will work on this and bring it back.

6. Conex Storage- The committee has established that these storage units should only be allowed in Rural, PID, and PD. The definition needs some changes, as there can be containers made with materials other than metal. Joel will work on cleaning this up and bring it back to the committee.
7. Vacant Buildings licensing- Kris McNeill has brought this for review. There are 70+ empty buildings in Gardiner. Some municipalities have ordinances for Vacant buildings, which require owners to register their building(s) with a fee. The fee will go up each year with the goal of getting the buildings in use again. Merrill Manor, the Irving building at the corner of Bridge and Highland are good examples of buildings that should be used, not just sitting empty and deteriorating. Kris would plan to deal with the neglected properties first and go from there. This would go in the City Code. There needs to be a definition. Joel will work on a definition and bring it back to the committee.
8. Building requirements in Cobbossee Corridor- This will be discussed at the next meeting.
9. Data Storage- The Planner will research this further, to see if there should be a specific noise provision added.
10. Other-Next meeting will be December 18- Joel will not be here. Committee members agreed to hold the meeting as scheduled. Joel will forward material that he has worked on prior to the meeting.
11. Adjourn- Rusty Greenleaf moved to adjourn at 6:40pm. Lisa St. Hilaire seconded the motion. No further discussion. All in favor.