

WESTMORELAND PLANNING BOARD
Minutes
October 15, 2018

Present: Lauren Bressett, Bruce Smith, Steve Houle, Jim Starkey, Tim Thompson, Elaine Moore, Alison Fissette, and Frank Reeder- Selectmen's Rep. Excused: Mark Hayward.

In Elaine Moore's absence, Lauren agreed to do minutes and Vice Chair Bruce Smith served as chair.

Bruce called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Jim Starkey noted that in reference to the definition of Recreation, Commercial the title should read Recreation, Commercial Indoor. He also noted that there doesn't seem to be a definition of outdoor commercial recreation. Tim Thompson noted that in the title Recreation, Public Outdoors the "s" should be removed so it reads Outdoor. Jim made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Tim Thompson seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

The board then continued its review of ordinances, focusing on recreation.

Definition

Recreation, Commercial Outdoor: A recreation facility where the activity is operated primarily outside of any building, operated as a business and open to the public for a fee.

The board looked at the material from Southwest Regional Planning Commission and discussed whether the definitions for passive and active outdoor recreation would serve a purpose in our ordinances. It was felt that working through the Zoning Tables would help to determine if this was a need. It was noted that not only does the board need to keep in mind the definitions for each zone but also envision the best plan for use in the future.

There was extensive discussion about the best uses for recreation in the Zoning Tables. Consensus was that the following changes should be made:

502 Commercial/Industrial – keep #1 Private Club and #5 Places of public assembly, entertainment and recreation.

Add Commercial indoor and outdoor commercial recreation, allowed by special exception. No distinction needed between passive and active.

503 Forestry Residential – Add public outside recreation and private outside recreation. After much discussion there was consensus that both should be passive recreation.

The board is leaning toward not adding commercial passive recreation although some feel if public and private is allowed commercial should also be considered. A few members want to research this a bit more. It was noted that something like a skeet shooting range perhaps best belongs here rather than anywhere else but would not be allowed with these changes.

504 Medium Density Residential – Keep #6 Public outdoor recreation. Add Commercial outdoor recreation. No need to differentiate passive and active.

505 Rural Residential – Add private and public outdoor recreation, both passive. There were similar leanings and concerns as there were in Forestry Residential about commercial. Would there really be a significant difference in intensity from public or private?

506 Village Center – 5 was already changed to Agriculture and Forestry. Remove items 8 Community Center, 9 Private Club, 10 membership club house, 12 Parking. Keep #15 Public outdoor recreation. Add Public indoor recreation, Private indoor and outdoor, and Commercial indoor only. No need to differentiate passive and active.

As differentiation in outdoor recreation is needed for Forestry and Rural Residential, the following definitions were drafted:

Passive recreation refers to recreation activities that do not require preparation or facilities like sports fields or pavilions. Passive recreation places minimal stress on a site's resources and is compatible with natural resources protection.

Active recreation refers to a structured individual or team activity that requires the use of special facilities, courses, fields, or equipment. (*we may want to add something referring to impact on natural resources of the site.*)

New Business

It is time for preorders for the Planning and Land Use Regulation Manual. Jim, Alison, Lauren, Steve and Bruce need new ones. Lauren's 2018 one will go to Tim.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jim seconded by Steve. All in favor. Bruce closed the meeting at 8:30. pm