

The Non-Conforming Zoning Ordinance Update Process

Recent Village initiatives to make changes to the Zoning Ordinance are attempting to create opportunities for public input prior to the required public hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). The public hearing before the ZBA is all that is required by law, but critics have commented that the process feels like it's a "done deal" and that there is no real consideration given to public input. While staff has always incorporated public comment from the required public hearings into the final product, the Village is reacting to residents' concerns by creating opportunities for better public involvement.

In the recent updates to the Downtown Business District, a special committee consisting of local businesses with a working history of downtown and zoning was put together to review alternatives. While the Village felt this was a good process for that specific amendment, not all agreed. Some thought it was too restrictive and didn't allow for a variety of input from a wider audience.

The process for considering updates to the Non-Conforming requirements of the Zoning Ordinance was modified to provide for input from a larger group of people. Instead of a committee of specific individuals, the Village has prepared some of this background information for distribution on the website, and a public workshop will be held, with staff providing this and more information about existing examples and possibilities in the form of a power point presentation. All interested parties are invited to attend, ask questions, and provide feedback and suggestions. This feedback will then be formulated into a draft of the proposed changes for consideration at a later formal public hearing before the Zoning Board of Appeals as required by law. Again, this required public hearing will provide even more opportunities for further input. The ZBA will make a formal recommendation, which will then be considered by the Village Council.

Please join the Elected Officials and Staff during this important session on:

Date: Thursday March 11, 2010

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Village Hall Council Chambers