

Glen Arbor Township
PO Box 276
Glen Arbor, MI 49636

Special Joint Town Board & Planning Commission Meeting
May 24, 2010
(Sign Ordinance)

Special Meeting called to order at 7:30 P.M. in the Township Meeting Room. Purpose of meeting was to address issues regarding way finding signs, mobile signs and location of sign ordinances (keeping it a Zoning Ordinance or move to a Township ordinance. All board members present except for Treasurer Gretzema. Planning members present were Lance Roman, Fred Missad, Sue Nichols, Bill Stege, and Lois Saltsman. Sign Committee members present were Tim Barr, Matt Wiesen, Ted Peterson and David Marshall. Many members of the public were in attendance. Four map scans have been purchased to be located at the corner of Lake St. & M-22 (Pottery Building), Tennis courts, and Boonedock's corner. All four have been paid for by donations. Two "Welcome to Glen Arbor" signs, sponsored and paid for by the Chamber of Commerce, have been installed. Dave Marshall reports that the sign committee has been meeting for over a year and ½. Goals were to preserve the unique character of the business community, ordinance to be fair and clear, and easily enforceable. The sign committee decided on a fifteen percent total wall space (including visible vending machines). Legal council concluded that temporary/vehicle signage is an enforcement issue that would be better handled as a parking ordinance. The Planning Commission proposed language that was rescinded by legal council. Roman, Planning Commission Chairman, says that the business community has grown over the years and is close to being totally built out. Most signage is already in place. There is public concern over the use of vehicle signage, on a repetitive basis. Bob Hawley, Glen Arbor's Zoning Administrator for 15 years, says that Glen Arbor has a much better looking community than it was 15 years ago. He said that there isn't a business that hasn't spent time and energy to improving the look of their business or signs. Off site signs and the number of portable signs are the only two parts of the sign ordinances that Hawley has had to enforce over the years. Nine pages out of 40+ pages of the zoning ordinance are dedicated to sign issues. Several years ago, Gourdie-Fraser, a consulting firm, wrote the sign ordinance. The only advantage for moving sign ordinances to Township Board authority, rather than remaining at the Zoning Ordinance, is the elimination of the grandfathering of off premise signage. There are three offsite signs in town. Chris Sack, representing traffic control of the M-22 Challenge which is planned for June 12 reported that bike traffic will be much greater for the 17 miles around both lakes and he is looking for volunteers. There were 120 contestants last year and this year there will be 300. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M. Deputy Clerk, Dana Roman