

Minutes

Greater Pine Island Land Use Plan Implementation Committee

Saint John's Episcopal Church

August 13, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Vice Chair Noel Andress, in the absence of Chair Barbara Dubin. The topic for the evening was Wetland Buffers and Business Signs. The meeting was turned over to Consultant Bill Spikowski.

Mr. Spikowski distributed a packet of information on Wetland Buffers and Business Signs, which also included Docket Sheet 03-1275 Russell M. Setti & Eagles Landing at Pine Island, Inc. vs. Lee County and Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Spikowski stated that he expects the hearing will be in September or October in Fort Myers. All parties will be represented by Lawyers. The issue is: Did Lee County act properly in adopting this plan? Is there a sound basis for the plan? Is it based on data and analysis?

Composite Code Changes to Implement Policy 14.1.5: Agricultural Buffers

Mr. Spikowski walked through the changes and asked, Is this version right for us? Does it make sense to implement it? What does this mean for agriculture? An agricultural buffer is the last opportunity to purify the water by stopping the flow of pesticides and herbicides. If the water management district requires riparian buffers, then this section will not be necessary. Any new or expanded operation will be required to meet the rules of the code. Existing operations will not.

It was suggested that we need a clear definition of associated wetlands and of native tree cover. ~~It was clarified that one cannot get an agricultural exemption unless the land is under a bona fide agricultural operation.~~ There was much discussion about clearing and agricultural exemptions where the agricultural operation covers only a portion of the property.

Implementing Policy 14.4.4: Business Signs

Mr. Spikowski explained that there are two types of business signs; one on a business and one on a right of way for the purpose of directing customers to a business. Currently, the latter signs are not allowed. This change would allow small directional signs for businesses that meet certain criteria. There are about ten places on the island where businesses meet the criteria and signs could be placed. A single business could have a sign if located on a single site. One sign would list all the businesses in a shopping center. A maximum size of 48 square feet was taken from the guidelines of the City of Cape Coral. It was agreed that this size needs to be refined.

There was a discussion of the illegal signs and billboards on the island, for which there is no enforcement. If this change is implemented, then enforcement would require the illegal signs to be removed.

The next Land Use Committee Meeting will be held on October 8th at 7pm at St. John's Episcopal Church. The topic will be The Coastal-Rural Land Use Category and the 810/910 Traffic Rules and how they interrelate with the Coastal-Rural category.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Trost

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MINUTES APPROVED BY COMMITTEE AS SHOWN, OCTOBER 8, 2003